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| A child standing next to a bus  Description automatically generatedSection 504: | |
| Unatego Central School District | **Contact Us:**  **Special Programs Office**  2641 State Highway 7  P.O. Box 483  Otego, Ny 13825  Phone: 607-988-5034  Fax: 607-988-5070 | |
| **What is Section 504?**  Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires that public schools take steps to ensure disabled students are not discriminated against. This law specifies that students with disabilities must be provided with accommodations or modifications such that they can access a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE). |
| **Who qualifies?**  Anyone with a disability could qualify for a Section 504 Plan, as long as the disability substantially limits a major life activity such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working, and learning.  Eligibility under 504 is broader than under Special Education. Even if a child doesn’t qualify for special education services, they may still qualify to receive related services, testing accommodations, or program modifications via a 504 Plan. | **504 Plan vs. IEP:**  **SAME-**   * Both can include related services, including counseling, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and/or speech and language therapy. * Both can include program modifications and testing modifications as well. * You will still be invited to a meeting on a yearly basis to talk about how your child is doing and plan for the following year. * Your child will still be reevaluated periodically to make sure they are making adequate progress.   **DIFFERENT-**   * While the 504 Plan focuses on how a student is learning, an IEP also describes *what* a student is learning. * Therefore, an IEP provides special education instruction, while a 504 Plan would not. * An IEP outlines specific goals and provides support for the student to meet those learning targets. | |
| **What is a Section 504 Plan?**  A Section 504 Plan is a written document that outlines what services, modifications, or accommodations a student with a disability requires to have educational opportunities equal to those provided nondisabled students.  The plan must include “reasonable accommodations, supports, and auxiliary aides” to allow the child to participate in the general curriculum. |
| **What can go on a 504 Plan?**  There is no restriction to what types of supports can legally be put into a 504 plan. However, if a child needs *special education* supports, the child should have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) rather than a 504 Plan.  Some of the supports that typically appear on 504 Plans include related service therapies (such as speech therapy or occupational therapy), program modifications (such as preferential seating, repeating directions, etc.), testing accommodations (such as extended time, being allowed to take breaks, etc.), or assistive technology (such as a calculator, tape recorder, spell check device, etc.). |