

504 Plans in Kentucky

What is a “504 Plan?”

- A “504 Plan” comes from Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and is a written education plan catered to a child with disabilities designed to meet the child’s individual needs. “Gender dysphoria” is a recognized condition by the DSM-V.

How does my child qualify for a 504 Plan?

- The determination of your child’s eligibility for a 504 Plan is made on an individual basis and is based upon a substantial limitation resulting from a mental or physical impairment.
- A medical diagnosis does **not** automatically mean your child will receive a 504 Plan— The school district’s committee **must** find that your child’s impairment limits one or more major life areas.
- Evaluations conducted outside of the school district’s practice **may** be considered, but not always.

How do I get started on obtaining a 504 Plan for my child?

- Start by contacting your child’s school district’s 504 Plan coordinator to discuss requesting the 504 Plan and next steps.

School District	504 Coordinator	504 Coordinator Contact
Jefferson County Public Schools	Kim Vinegar	(502) 485-6290; kim.vinegar@jefferson.kyschools.us
Fayette County Public Schools	Margaret Miracle Murphy	(859) 381-4335; (859) 402-3383
Boone County Public Schools	Jenny Watson (elementary schools)	(859) 282-3331; jenny.watson@boone.kyschools.us
Boone County Public Schools	Tara Drysdale (middle & high schools)	(859) 282-3245; tara.drysdale@boone.kyschools.us
Warren County Public Schools		
Hardin County Public Schools	Liz Tabb	(270) 769-880
Kenton County Public Schools	Tammy Pugh	(859) 957-2637; Tammy.kernspugh@kenton.kyschools.us
Bullitt County Public Schools	Amanda Bruce	(502) 869-8000 amanda.bruce@bullitt.kyschools.us
Oldham County Public Schools	Bethony Keil	Bethony.keil@oldham.kyschools.us
Daviess County Public Schools	Robin Bush	(270) 852-7000; Robin.bush@daviess.kyschools.us
Madison County Public Schools	Starla Browne	Starla.browne@madison.kyschools.us

Scott County Public Schools	Angie Vermillion	Angie.vermillion@scottschools.com
Laurel County Public Schools	Kaye Morgan	(606) 862-4608
Christian County Public Schools	Michelle Ladd	(270) 887-7004
Jessamine County Public Schools	Kelly Zabilka	Kelly.zabilka@jessamine.kyschools.us
Pulaski County Public Schools	Quynce Williams	(501) 234-2060; qwiliams@pcssd.org

- The determination of your child’s eligibility for a 504 Plan will be made by a group of people who are knowledgeable about your child. This group of people may include the principal of the school, teachers, and other educators who are familiar with your child. Parents and sometimes the child are included in this process but not always.

My child has been diagnosed with gender dysphoria. Can they qualify for a 504 Plan?

- “Gender dysphoria” is a psychological impairment that can manifest itself as anxiety or depression. It can result in self-harming behaviors including suicidality and attempted suicide.
- Therefore, students who may be experiencing gender dysphoria to such a marked degree as to interfere with their ability to access their education are entitled to the procedural rights and protections that are provided under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1972, and in some cases, under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- Federal laws, such as Section 504, the IDEA, or Title IX trump state laws with contrary mandates. This comes from the U.S. Constitution, Article 6, §2, the Supremacy Clause.
- Schools receiving federal financial assistance risk losing that funding if they are found to be in violation of these federal laws.

What happens next if my child’s school district approves our request for a 504 Plan?

- Should your child’s school district approve your request for a 504 Plan, the school district must create a written plan and prepare and provide copies to parents/guardians, teachers, and other individuals deemed appropriate.

What happens if my child’s school district denies our request for a 504 Plan?

- Parents/guardians may appeal the school district’s decision. However, in some instances, the parents/guardians will be required to schedule and pay for an outside evaluation of their child.