



The San Diego Unified School District determined it is necessary to close its schools to prevent/contain the spread of COVID-19, pursuant to current guidance from county, state and federal agencies, which includes Governor Newsom's proclamation of the existence of a State of Emergency in the State of California and ongoing updated orders. Our school closure determination was made to safeguard health and safety of students, families, teachers, staff, and the community at large, as well as for concerns for administrators, our state and for our nation, at large. Additionally, the District's determination to close schools based on parameters of shelter in place order from County Officials issued 3/23/2020, Executive Order N-33-20, by Governor Newsom, subsequent additions to it, all of which order California residents to shelter in place.

During the time schools remain closed due to COVID-19, and in order to comply with orders of federal, state and local government officials, the District will, to maximum extent possible, provide the special education accommodations and supports written into a student's Section 504 Plan in the same manner it could prior to closure. Further, the shelter in place orders and the guidance requiring social distancing mandates changes be made in the delivery of education to all students, and expectation for all students. Therefore, the District will implement current Section 504 Plans, to the maximum extent possible, because schools remain closed and health and safety concerns for all dictate that the District deliver educational services in the context of a distance learning plan. Within the distance learning plan, all students are provided access to instruction and are accessing distance learning at the same time as students that have a Section 504 Plan.

If there are Section 504 meetings that are absolutely necessary, such as an Initial, it will need to be held. Members of the 504 Team should be knowledgeable of the student in order to determine if a student is eligible for Section 504. The meeting can be held over the phone, a conference call, secure Zoom, etc.

The guidelines for Section 504 are more flexible than students under IDEA regarding annual meetings and timelines. If a meeting was already scheduled during the time students are receiving distance learning and cannot be held, it will not be considered late or out of compliance. Accommodations and supports should continue to be provided to the maximum extent possible, in order for the student to be provided equal access and an appropriate education. Do not hold a 504 meeting to change a student's placement to provide accommodations and supports as part of the distance learning plan. This is not a change of placement. The District is providing access and meaningful educational benefit to students during distance learning opportunities, provided during potential long term closure. When it is safe to resume school, students will receive the accommodations and supports that were written in the Section 504 Plan. Until then, the District intends to provide them the same educational benefit available to every student in this time.

Any meetings that must be held, staff will have access to the SIS program via the provided "work-around" link. (<https://www.sandi.net/staff/adasection-504/adasection-504-support-materials>). Parent's signatures are optional on the 504 Plan, but you can indicate the parent participated, and how the meeting was held in the signature section.

Parent(s) or guardian(s) of a child with a disability, are protected by the parental rights and procedural safeguards (located on the ADA/504 Website).

The Districts 504 Office is available to provide support and answer questions during this time of school closures.

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