

NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY

Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that no qualified individual with a disability shall, because of public facilities that are inaccessible to or unusable by individuals with disabilities, be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, and activities offered in such public facilities or be subject to discrimination. Moreover, the school district may not exclude or otherwise deny services, programs, or activities to an individual because of the known disability of a person with whom the individual is known to have a relationship or association.

The Mansfield Public Schools is committed to supporting students who qualify under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and to ensuring that such students are not denied admission or access to the activities, programs and services offered by the Mansfield Public Schools because of their disability.

As well, the Mansfield Public Schools is committed to ensuring that students with disabilities are not treated differently because of their disability. The Superintendent of Schools for the Mansfield Public Schools shall take the necessary steps to inform parents/guardians and students of their rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, including the right to receive a free and appropriate public education if the student is found to be qualified under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Reasonable Modifications/Accommodations:

The Mansfield Public Schools shall make reasonable modification in policies, practices, or procedures or accommodations when the modifications or accommodations are necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability, unless the district can demonstrate that making the modifications or accommodations would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity.

A request for an accommodation should be made in writing to the Assistant Superintendent or to the building-based 504 Coordinators. Alternative means of filing a request will be made available if needed, such as large print or audiotape. Requests should include the name, address and telephone number of the individual request the accommodation, the location where the accommodation is required and why the accommodation is needed. For public meetings and hearings, the Assistant Superintendent or building-based 504 Coordinators should be notified at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance.

For students, the Assistant Superintendent or building-based 504 Coordinators will respond to such a request in accordance with the Mansfield Public Schools' Section 504 Policies and Procedures or Special Education Policies and Procedures. For all other individuals, the Assistant Superintendent or building-based Coordinator will respond within two (2) school days of receipt of the request.

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Communications:

The Mansfield Public Schools shall take the appropriate steps to ensure that communications with applicants, participants, and members of the public with disabilities are as effective as communications with others. To this end, the district shall furnish appropriate auxiliary aids and services where necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy benefits of, a service, program, or activity conducted by the Mansfield Public Schools. In determining what type of auxiliary aid or service is necessary, the district shall give primary consideration to the requests of the individuals with disabilities.

Auxiliary Aids and Services:

“Auxiliary aids and services” includes (1) qualified interpreters, note takers, transcription services, written materials, assisted listening systems, and other effective methods for making aurally delivered materials available to individuals with hearing impairments; (2) qualified readers, taped texts, audio recordings, Braille materials, large print materials, or other effective methods for making visually delivered materials available to individuals with visual impairments; (3) acquisition or modification of equipment or devices and (4) other similar services and actions.

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Limits of Modifications/Accommodations:

The Mansfield Public Schools is not required to take any action that it can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a service, program, or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens. Any decision that, in compliance with its responsibility to provide effective communication for individuals with disabilities, would fundamentally alter the service, program, or activity or unduly burden the Mansfield Public Schools shall be made by the Superintendent after considering all resources available for use in funding and operating the program, service, or activity. A written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion shall accompany the decision.

Website Accessibility

The Mansfield Public Schools is committed to providing all users of their websites, including users with disabilities, with meaningful accessibility in this online environment. The Mansfield Public Schools follow standards that are generally based on the standards used by the federal government for technology accessibility for individuals with disabilities and web content accessibility guidelines developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). The Mansfield Public Schools' websites are regularly tested and reviewed by users to verify that the websites are compliant with applicable standards.

If an individual needs assistance in accessing materials, such a request should be made to The Director of Technology (located at Mansfield High School) at 508-261-7540 or help@mansfieldschools.com.

Compliance Coordinator: The Mansfield Public Schools shall designate at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title II of ADA, including any investigation of any complaint communicated to it alleging its noncompliance or alleging any actions that would be prohibited under ADA.

The Mansfield Public Schools shall make available to all interested individuals the name, office address, and telephone number of the employee(s) so designated and shall adopt and publish procedures for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action that would be prohibited under the ADA. The school system receives federal financial assistance and must comply with the above requirements.

Revised: December 08, 2020
 May 27, 2014

LEGAL REFS: Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504
 Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975
 M.G.L. 71B:1 et seq. (Chapter 766 of the Acts of 1972)
 Title II, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992

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Board of Education Chapter 766 Regulations, adopted 10/74, as amended through 3/28/78

CROSS REFS: IGB, Support Services Programs
 IGBA, Programs for Handicapped Students