

## Section 504 District Coordinator

Sarah Pentzer

1500 E. 128th Avenue

Thornton, CO 80241

720.972.7107

sarah.pentzer@adams12.org

For additional information  
contact your child's  
school principal or school  
section 504 coordinator.

### Vision, Mission, Purpose

The Five Star District is committed to excellence. Successful students, highly skilled staff and a caring community embody the Five Star difference.

Our vision, mission, purpose and goal provide a clear focus for the district.

#### Vision

Adams 12 Five Star Schools exists so that its residents are well prepared for the next stage of a successful life, at a level that justifies the resources used.

#### Mission

Accelerate successful academic performance for students and nurture social development.

#### Purpose

Our core work results in students meeting or exceeding grade level standards in reading, writing and math while demonstrating the behaviors associated with citizenship, ethics, integrity, creativity, productivity and healthy life styles.

#### **Anti-Discrimination Statement**

Adams 12 Five Star Schools is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination/harassment in relation to race, color, sex, religion, creed, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation and disability. Superintendent's Policy 8400 establishes guidelines related to allegations of discrimination and/or harassment of or by students or staff.



## Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Student Engagement  
Initiatives  
Adams 12 Five Star Schools  
1500 E. 128th Avenue  
Thornton, CO 80241

## What is Section 504?

Section 504 is a federal statute that prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in any program receiving federal financial funds. In order for schools to provide an appropriate education for students who are protected under Section 504, accommodations and modifications may be necessary. The vast majority of accommodations and modifications for students served under Section 504 will occur in a general education classroom.

### When does a student qualify as having a disability under Section 504?

A student who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more life activities or major bodily functions, is a disabled person for purposes of Section 504.

### What is a major life activity?

Major life activities include caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working and learning.

### What is a major bodily function?

Major bodily functions include immune system, digestive system, respiratory function, endocrine function, bowel function, and others.

### What is the difference between Section 504 and IDEA?

Section 504 requires reasonable accommodations to ensure nondiscrimination against students with disabilities. IDEA requires affirmative action in providing special education and related services. IDEA compliance involves special education while Section 504 is a regular education initiative.

## Section 504 Accommodations Guidelines

Parents should contact their child's school Section 504 Coordinator to request a Section 504 referral form. The Section 504 Coordinator will provide a copy of parent/student rights, obtain written consent for evaluation, and a release of information.

The school's 504 team will consist of regular education teachers, parents/guardians, and other building/district staff as appropriate.

The team will complete an evaluation of information related to the student's impairment to assist with determination of eligibility. The team will meet with the parent/guardian to review the evaluation, determine eligibility and determine if an accommodation plan should be developed.

A Section 504 Accommodation Plan will be developed for students who are determined to have a disability under Section 504 and who are unable to access their educational environment as compared to their peers. The plan will be based upon the needs identified through the assessment process. Parents will be provided a copy of the Section 504 accommodation plan for their child.

The school Section 504 Coordinator will share the plan with those staff members having relevant contact with the student.

All staff members are responsible to follow the provisions described in the Section 504 accommodation plan. If changes are determined necessary, a meeting should be initiated to review the concern.

## Examples of Reasonable Accommodations and Modifications

A student with an emotional or mental illness may need an adjusted class schedule to allow time for regular counseling or therapy.

A student with a long term, debilitating medical condition, such as cancer or diabetes, may need a class schedule that allows for rest.

A student who uses a wheelchair may require special seating considerations.

A student with significant attention issues may require monitoring of an assignment notebook and extended time for testing.

A student with arthritis experiencing persistent pain, tenderness, or swelling may require a modified physical educational program.



Student Engagement  
Initiatives  
Adams 12 Five Star Schools  
1500 E. 128th Avenue  
Thornton, CO 80241