

EDUCATIONAL



THE UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Report to Legislative Committee

Appropriation for Accommodation Plans for Students with Section 504 Accommodations

53A-17a-112.2

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Appropriation for Accommodation Plans for Students with Section 504 Accommodations

STATUTORY REQUIREMENT

U.C.A. Section 53A-17a-112.2 requires the State Board of Education to provide (a) information collected regarding the number of students who qualify for a Section 504 accommodation plan; and (b) if available, the estimated financial impact of providing Section 504 accommodation services to certain students

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

All Local Education Agencies (LEAs) have a designated Section 504 Coordinator to administer policies and procedures regarding eligibility, evaluation, and determining appropriate accommodations for qualified students regardless of cost as required by Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

In accordance with U.C.A. Section 53A-17a-112.2, the Board of Education received reports from LEAs regarding the total number of students receiving 504 accommodations as well as approximate costs in providing necessary accommodations in order for qualified students to access a FAPE (free appropriate public education). LEAs were given the choice to submit either a 2016-17 school year report or an 11-week report from mid-August to October 31, 2017.

- **Key points from the submitted reports**
 - There were 33 LEAs who chose to submit a 2016-17 expenditure report.
 - There were 100 LEAs who chose to submit an 11-week expenditure report from mid-August to October 31, 2017
 - The approximate number of students receiving 504 accommodations from unduplicated combined reports is 9,720.
 - The approximate overall cost to administer and provide 504 accommodations to students of the 33 participating LEAs for 2015-16 is \$4,056,591.
 - The approximate overall cost to administer and provide 504 accommodations to students of 100 participating LEAs from during the 11-week period from mid-August to October 31, 2017 is \$4,584,879.

METHODOLOGY

LEAs were informed through multiple webinar and face-to-face trainings of the Legislative expectations in reporting total number of students receiving 504 accommodations and related expenditures according to individual

need. All LEAs were required to submit their report to the Board by November 10, 2017. Eighty-three percent of the LEAs successfully submitted their report through a cyber-secured platform.

FINDINGS

There is no other state participating in a reimbursement program to LEAs like the program outlined in U.C.A. Section 53A-17a-112.2. Historically in Utah, there was no Board rule that:

- required LEAs to track the number of students receiving 504 accommodations;
- required LEAs to designate a disability category to every 504 student;
- required LEAs to identify an entry and exit date of 504 services; or
- required LEAs to report the financial expenditures of qualified students receiving 504 accommodations.

As a result, the Board adopted R277-753 LEA Reporting Requirements for Section 504 Students. The following are findings from the reports:

| Report Type | # of Participating LEAs | # of students receiving 504 accommodations | Overall costs to Students Receiving Section 504 Supports |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 2016-17 | 33 | 2,468 | \$4,056,591 |
| Mid-August to October 31, 2017 | 100 | 7,250 | \$4,584,879 |
| Unduplicated Total | 133 | 9,720 | |

CONCLUSION

The Board will make rules that allow LEAs to apply for reimbursement costs of 504 services in accordance with U.C.A. Section 53A-17a-112.2.