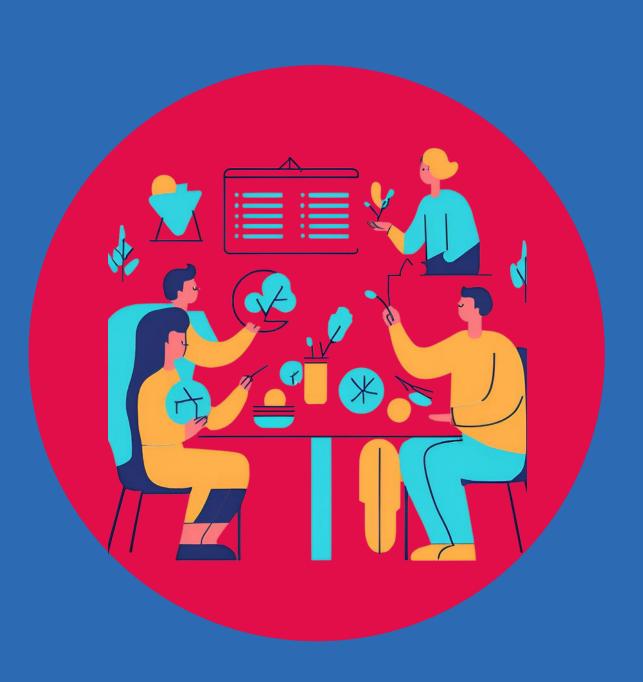
Welcome to ACNJ's





Before the IEP

Facilitated by:

Nina Peckman, ACNJ Staff Attorney

School Services That Can Help Students

- Tiered Level of Supports
 - Academic and/or Behavior
- Guidance Counseling Services
- Intervention and Referral Services
- Health plans
- Multilingual Learner Services
- 504 Plans



Tiered System of Supports

- School leadership:
 - Should ensure staff training and collaboration between staff
- Family and Community Engagement:
 - Families and community partners should help develop strategies
 - Parents should receive information in culturally responsive ways and in appropriate languages about universal screenings, curriculum, assessment results and available school supports
- Positive School Culture and Climate:
 - Staff training and curriculum for positive social emotional development and positive behavior supports

Services range from universal to targeted to intensive supports

- For students with academic weaknesses or emotional/behavioral difficulties
- Implementation of strategies that are datadriven
- Staff should regularly review data and strategies
- If strategies aren't working, consider changes or more intensive supports: IR&S or child study team evaluations.

Guidance Counseling Services

Example of issues that school counseling can address:

- managing stress, worry, anger, anxiety
- dealing with friends, bullying
- dealing with loss/ family changes
- crisis intervention
- Referrals to community-based services
- Facilitate enrollment in vocational schools
- Career and higher education guidance



Intervention and Referral Services

- Every school has an IR&S team to help students with more serious issues
- An IR&S plan is a written document developed by an IR&S team and that the parent can help participate in planning – no formal evaluation or diagnosis is needed.
- Should be reviewed annually and revised at any time it is not working
- The team could include a guidance counselor, principal and/or the child study team
- Services cannot delay child study team evaluations when there is evidence that a child may be eligible for special education or a 504 plan

IR&S Can Provide Many Supports For a Variety of Issues Including:

- Supplemental academic instruction in small groups
- Tutoring
- Mental health
- Discipline/ Behavior/ Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying
- Poor Attendance/ Truancy
- Credit recovery when students fail classes or miss too much school

Health Plans and Nursing Services

Schools must ensure that all students receive annual health screenings

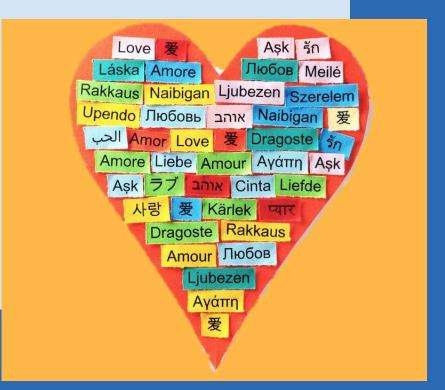
Individualized health care plans and individualized emergency health care plans, are available as needed for students with chronic medical conditions

Management of allergies and life-threatening illnesses including safety plan, emergencies, administration of medicine and as needed, student self-administration



Multilingual Learner Services

- For students when their primary language is not English and who
 do not have English language proficiency
- Schools must offer bilingual instruction and English as a Second Language program (ESL), ESL only or English language services depending on the number of students in need of these services
- Students are entitled to many additional support services
 as are their parents, if their parents don't speak English or
 aren't fluent.



504 Plans

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, a Federal Anti-Discrimination Law

- For students who have a disabling condition that impact their ability to learn and require reasonable accommodations and supports to have the same opportunity to learn and succeed as non-disabled students
- For students who can learn in a general education setting with reasonable supports and accommodations and who do not need special education instruction.
- Therapies and modifications available through an IEP are available through a 504 plan
- A written document based upon evaluations, the input of school staff and parents
- The plan should be reviewed annually and revised as necessary.
- Entitlement to child study team evaluations
- Protections in discipline based upon the student's disability

Some Helpful Resources

From ACNJ's Students Rights Page:

https://acnj.org/multilingual-learners-and-parents-rights-in-public_schoolsfact_sheet/

https://acnj.org/learn-about-harassment-intimidation-and-bullying-laws-in-new-jersey/

From the New Jersey Department of Education:

https://www.nj.gov/education/safety/health/

https://www.nj.gov/education/njtss/resources/irs/index.shtml

https://www.nj.gov/education/safety/wellness/mh/

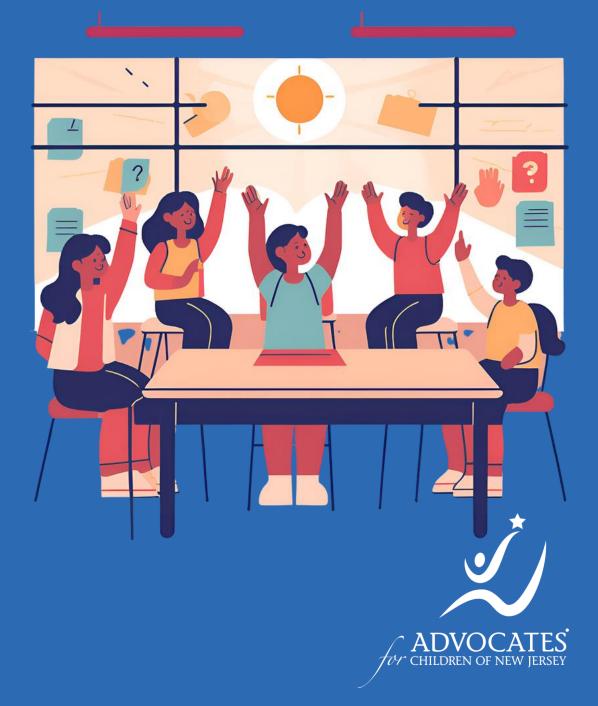
From the U.S. Department of Education (regarding 504 plans)

https://www.ed.gov/laws-and-policy/individuals-disabilities/protecting-students-with-

disabilities



QUESTIONS??



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