

Why is this important?

The **United States Department of Education** is clarifying school districts' responsibility under **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973** to ensure that students with disabilities have opportunities to participate in extra-curricular athletics equal to those of other students.



How does this impact you?

School Districts will be required to examine their **policies, practices and procedures** and make reasonable modifications whenever necessary to **ensure equal opportunities for all students**. With multiple athletic programs and numerous types of disabilities (physical, developmental, mental health, and/or behavioral), it can be difficult to navigate through these changes on your own. Kids Included Together has compiled a few tips to help you get started!

Kids Included Together (KIT) helps organizations engage children with and without disabilities.

Create Opportunities for Participation

Existing Programs

Determine the ability of each athlete based on their individual performance and/or observed abilities

Determine **modifications or supports** to allow successful participation
(see back for examples of modifications)

Provide aids or services based on the determined need(s) of the individual to allow successful participation

New Programs

Combine athletes of all abilities who do not make the select or competitive teams to create an inclusive athletic program

Mix male and female participants together if the population of students is not large enough to create gender-specific teams

Create district-wide specialized teams if the population of students is not large enough within individual schools to create teams

Examples of Modifications

Some athletes may need:

Modification of uniforms or equipment
(a student with sensory differences may need to wear a rash guard for competitive swimming)

Involvement of their own **personal aide and/or assistive devices**

Modeling and repetition of techniques and expectations

A coach proficient in **supporting positive teamwork and team dynamics**

Frequent breaks for reasons that may include:
medication management
restroom use
hydration and nutrition
fatigue

Staff who are trained on how to **include athletes and interested athletes with disabilities**

Want more? www.KITonline.org

Register at www.KITonline.org/FreeWebinar

February 19, 2013 | 10:00 - 10:30 am PST

Join our FREE 30 minute webinar to learn how this law impacts your extracurricular athletic programs, and how KIT can help.



FREE
WEBINAR



In this webinar, you will learn:

- Ideas on how to **assess the capacity of your program.**
- How to **determine the individual needs** of students with disabilities who want to participate.

Register today | www.KITonline.org/FreeWebinar