



Long COVID

under Section 504 and the IDEA

A Resource to Support Children,
Students, Educators, Schools,
Service Providers, and Families



existing disability, to COVID-19, or to both. If these symptoms persist in the form of long COVID, these children or students may need new or different related aids and services, specialized instruction, or reasonable modifications. Other children or students may be found eligible for services under IDEA and/or Section 504 for the first time because of the adverse

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B. Child Find and Initial Evaluation Procedures under IDEA Part B

Similarly, Child Find for IDEA Part B requires public agencies to implement policies and procedures ensuring that all children with disabilities who need special education and related services are identified, located, and evaluated, regardless of the severity of the disability. This includes, for example, children who may have been identified as a child with a disability under the IDEA category of other health impairment as a result of contracting COVID (e.g., long COVID or multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children, known as MIS-C).²² Child Find activities typically involve a screening process to determine whether the child should be referred for a full evaluation to determine eligibility for special education and related services. If the public agency suspects the child may have a disability under IDEA, it must seek the parent’s consent to conduct an initial evaluation. That [evaluation must be consistent with IDEA’s requirements](#) and conducted within 60 days of receiving parental consent or within the State- established timeline. At the completion of the evaluation, a group of qualified professionals and the child’s parent determine whether the child is a child with a disability as defined in IDEA and, if yes, identify the educational needs of the child

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C. Evaluation Procedures under Section 504

Under Section 504, schools must conduct an evaluation in a timely manner of any student who needs or is believed to need special education or related services because of a disability. ²³ The evaluation of a student must be individualized and not make any conclusions based on the child’s diagnosis alone. Once the evaluations are completed, a group of people knowledgeable about the child and the child’s evaluation data and placement options (for example, the child’s parents, school nurses, teachers, counselors,

If a student is eligible for services or reasonable modifications under Section 504, schools often record those services and modifications in a document called a Section 504 plan .²⁷ Under Section 504, for example, a group of knowledgeable people may determine that a student requires a reasonable modification to the attendance policy to receive excused absences for long COVID -related illness or medical appointments beyond the initial period of illness .

Postsecondary Education Students

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About the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and Office of Special Education



¹⁹ In addition, if a person with long COVID has a record of such impairment or is regarded as having such an impairment, the person would meet the definition of disability under Section 504.

²⁰ 34 C.F.R. § 303.303.

²¹ In this document, parent refers to both parents and guardians.

²² 34 C.F.R. § 300.111.

²³ 34 C.F.R. § 104.35.

²⁴ 34 C.F.R. § 104.35(c).

²⁵ 34 C.F.R. § 104.35(d). A reevaluation procedure consistent with the IDEA is one means of meeting this Section 504 requirement.

²⁶ Parentally - 47 (a)-4u00

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