

CASE RECOMMENDATION FORM

ECHO Session Date: 9/24/2025

Presenter: School Counselor

After a review of the case details from the ECHO Idaho – K12 Education: Section 504 session, and discussion of this student's case among the ECHO Community of Practice, the following suggestions have been made:

Summary:

A 6th-8th grade student with an undiagnosed mental health condition is not currently supported by a Section 504 plan.

Central Questions:

Who should be included in the 504 meetings?

Recommendations:

- **Prioritize safety concerns:** If mental health struggles involve suicide or self-harm, a 504 meeting (and possibly a safety plan) is essential to ensure the student's safety at school.
- **Hold the meeting even without a formal diagnosis:** A diagnosis is not required; suspicion of a disability based on symptoms, observations, and teacher input is sufficient to begin the 504 process.
- **Document observations and establish substantial limitation:** The plan can state the impact on major life activities and necessary accommodations without naming the disability. Teams may write that "due to the following observations, the team suspects..." while ensuring they determine which major life activity is substantially limited.
- **Emphasize collaboration:** Broad collaboration and thorough documentation support best practice and help protect the school if disputes arise. At least two people who know the student well enough to advocate for them should be included. Suggested participants include:
 - Student (middle school students should be encouraged to share their perspective)
 - Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
 - Classroom Teachers
 - School Counselor (including those in neighboring school districts)
 - School Psychologist (if available; could possibly provide rating scales and help interpret student needs)
 - School Nurse or Health Professional
 - Other Relevant Staff (anyone needed to implement and support accommodations)

Consider presenting a patient case at a future ECHO Idaho session.

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