

## ABSTRACT

Treviño, Jacques E., Ensuring Educational Opportunity for Disabled Students: A Legal Analysis of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Doctor of Education (Ed.D), May 2001, 138 pp., 351 footnotes.

The study was a legal analysis of the reasonable accommodation standard as defined and applied by the judiciary in carrying out the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The purpose of the study was to identify problem areas in interpreting Section 504 as it applies to the responsibilities of public schools in light of differing standards applied by the Department of Education and the judiciary. An analysis of case law, federal statutes, and federal regulations helped to determine the current practices regarding the accommodation of disabled students in our public schools.

The study focused on the development of Section 504 and its regulations in a public school context. The study incorporated the methods of traditional legal research to identify and analyze legal principles pertinent to the educational rights of disabled students. Organized into five chapters, the study introduced the controversy between the judicial and executive branches, provided a historical overview of Section 504, outlined a methodology of study, analyzed the

reasonable accommodation standard, and suggested possible solutions to the legal and financial problems introduced by the Department of Education. The recommendations represented an attempt to harmonize important educational policies with current funding realities.