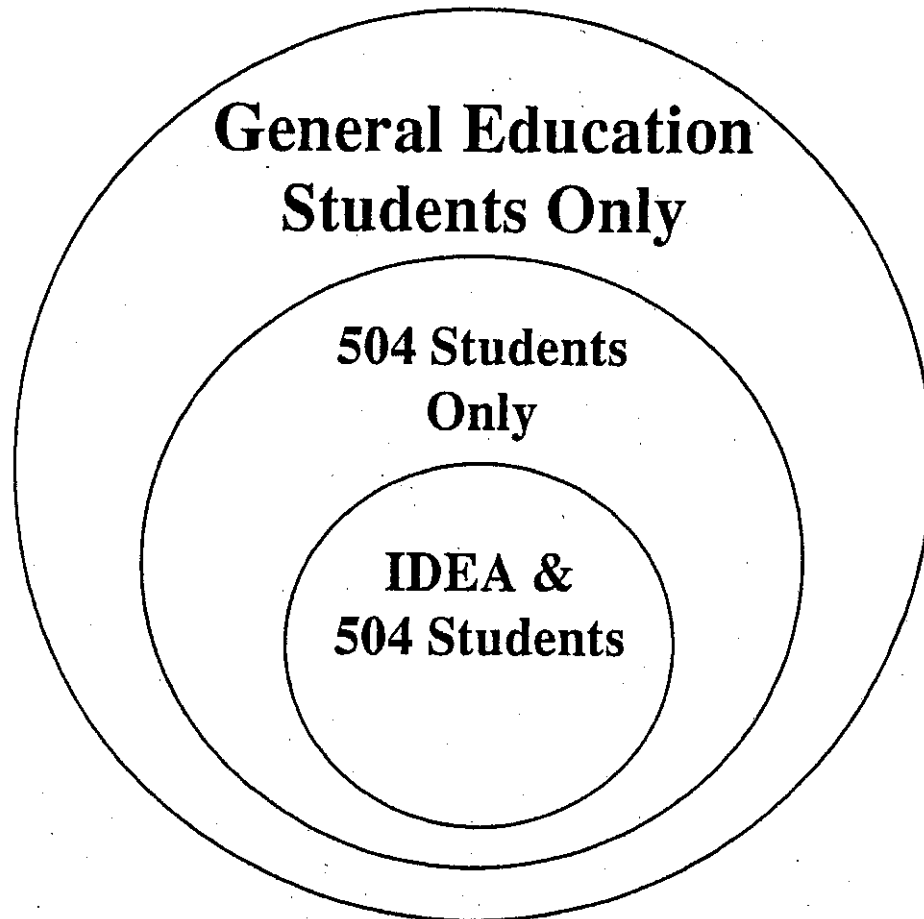


# Section 504/IDEA Student Population



## IDEA/504 STUDENTS

Students are qualified under one or more of 13 IDEA disability categories. Specially designed individual education programs are planned for each student by IEP teams.

## SECTION 504 STUDENTS ONLY

Due to substantial mental or physical impairments that limit one or more of the student's major life activities, special accommodations to the student's programs are required. A Section 504 accommodation plan is designed for each student according to individual need.

Adapted from: Council of Administrators of Special Educators. (1991). *Student access: A resource guide for educators: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*. Reston, VA: Author.

# SECTION 504

**WHAT IS SECTION 504?:** Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 protects the rights of individuals with disabilities. Public schools must provide accommodations and services for students with special needs. Students in preschool, elementary, secondary and adult education programs and activities are entitled to receive accommodations or services, depending on their needs and the environment in which they are functioning.

School districts must make reasonable accommodations to allow students an opportunity to participate in school and school-related activities. Disabled students should receive services that are equal to and as effective as those that other students receive. It is not the intent of Section 504 to provide program(s) that are fundamentally different from existing opportunities.

- In most instances, appropriate interventions for individuals found handicapped only under Section 504 occur within the regular education setting.
- Section 504 is not an aspect of "special education". It is a responsibility of the comprehensive general education system. Principals and superintendents of schools are primarily responsible for its implementation within districts. Classroom teachers are primarily responsible for its implementation within their classrooms. Special education administrators and special education teachers are participants but are not ultimately responsible for Section 504 in the schools.

**WHERE DO SECTION 504 SERVICES TAKE PLACE?:** Students who are eligible under Section 504 are serviced by general educators with modifications as specified on a 504 ACCOMMODATION PLAN developed by school staff and parents.

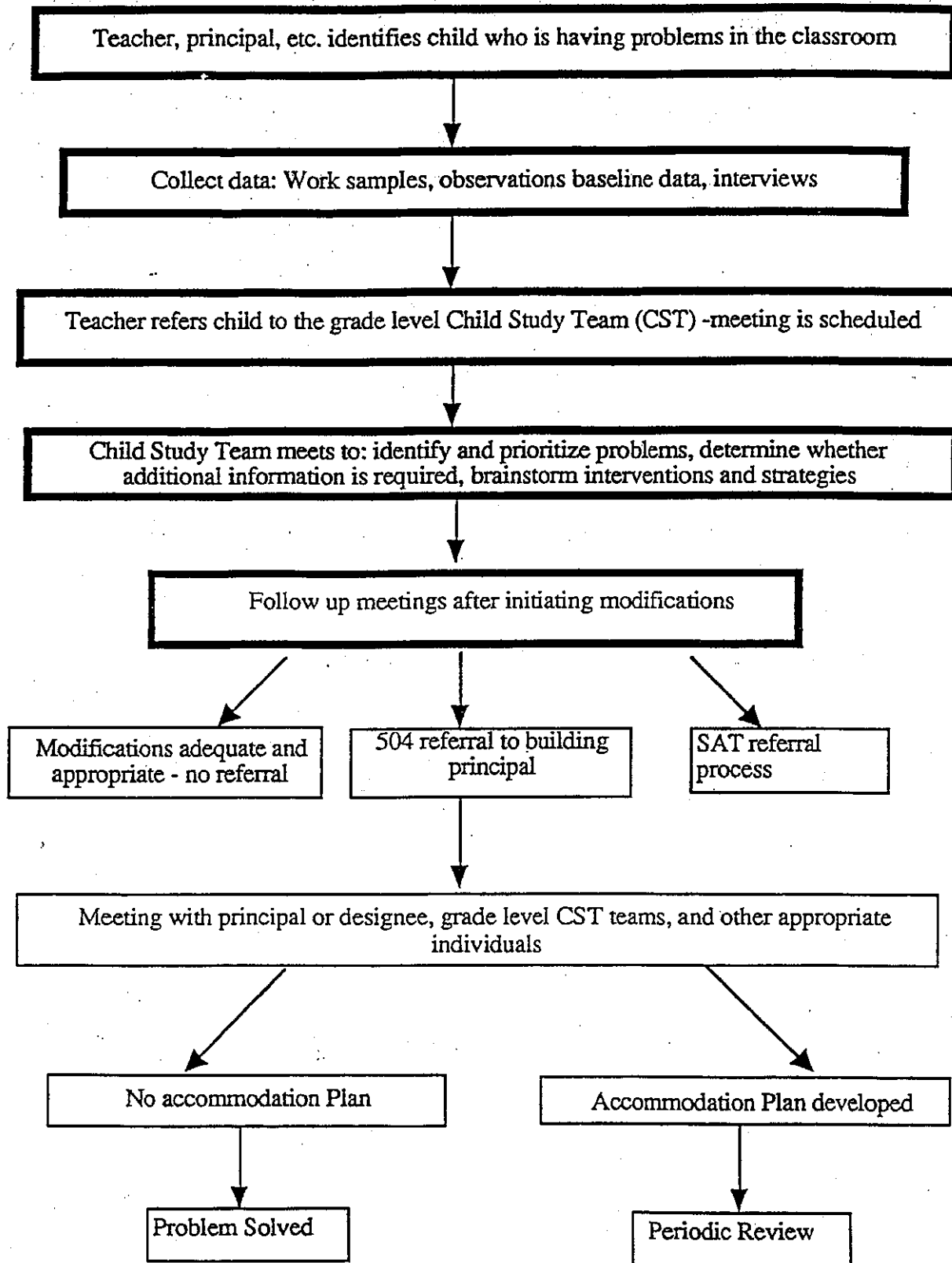
Classroom teachers can provide accommodations through classroom modifications, curriculum adaptations, time management and delivery of instruction (see SERVICES/ACCOMMODATIONS CHECK LIST).

School districts must make reasonable accommodations to allow students an opportunity to participate successfully in school and school-related activities. Accommodations must be provided within the regular education system/classroom. Teachers may need training in specific areas of the identified area of need, such as, training from the school nurse on the signs of an impending asthma attack or positioning of a student in a wheelchair at his/her desk, etc.

**WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LEGISLATION?:** The law specifies that...

- Each school district must undertake to identify every qualified student residing in their jurisdiction.
- Parental notices and evaluations must be in the native language of the student and parent(s)/guardian(s).
- Districts must maintain documentation regarding the persons involved, the evaluation data used and the options considered.
- Districts must advise the parent(s)/guardian(s)/student of parental and student rights under Section 504.
- Districts must comply with the rights as summarized in the SECTION 504 A Guide for Parents, Students and Staff brochure

## 504 PREREFERRAL /REFERRAL PROCESS



Boxes in bold represent the present CST process