

Section 504

**Elise James, Program Specialist
Outreach Unit**

Disclaimer

- GaDOE has no authority
 - Governance and authority belongs to the United States Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR)
- GaDOE's Role
 - Guidance for districts, parents, and stakeholders
 - Provide tools and resources



UGH...3:00PM IS LIKE
FOREVER FROM NOW...



Only 15
minutes



Learning Targets

- Participants will be able to:
 - Define disability under Section 504
 - Explain why the special education director must collaborate with the district Section 504 Coordinator.
 - Name potential issues in Section 504 that can impact special education directors' responsibility.

What is Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973?

- A civil rights law to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability
- Governed by the Office of Civil Rights (OCR)
 - The Georgia Department of Education has not authority for the supervision of implementation
- Limited guidance giving great flexibility to district
 - Must be documented in district created procedures
 - Not necessarily supervised by special education

Disability Defined Under Section 504

- A person or students who:
 - (1) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity;
 - (2) has a record of such an impairment; **or**
 - (3) is regarded as having such an impairment.
- **Broad coverage**



Educational Responsibility



- Educational responsibility
 - “The Section 504 regulations require a school district to provide a "free appropriate public education" (FAPE) to each qualified student with a disability who is in the school district's jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability.”
 - “Under Section 504, FAPE consists of the provision of regular or special education and related aids and services designed to meet the student's individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of nondisabled students are met.”

Educational Responsibility



- All schools and school districts receiving Federal financial assistance from the United States Department of Education (USED) **MUST COMPLY.**
- Students must have an equal opportunity to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities.
- Students must not be bullied or harassed based on their disability.

Areas for Potential Issues



- Knowledge of Section 504 Coordinator's identity
 - Multiple people in multiple places
- Evaluation
- Discipline
 - Bullying and Harrassment
- Child Find

Two-Hundred and Ninety

(5/2023- 5/2024)

Discipline
(7)

Child Find
(8)

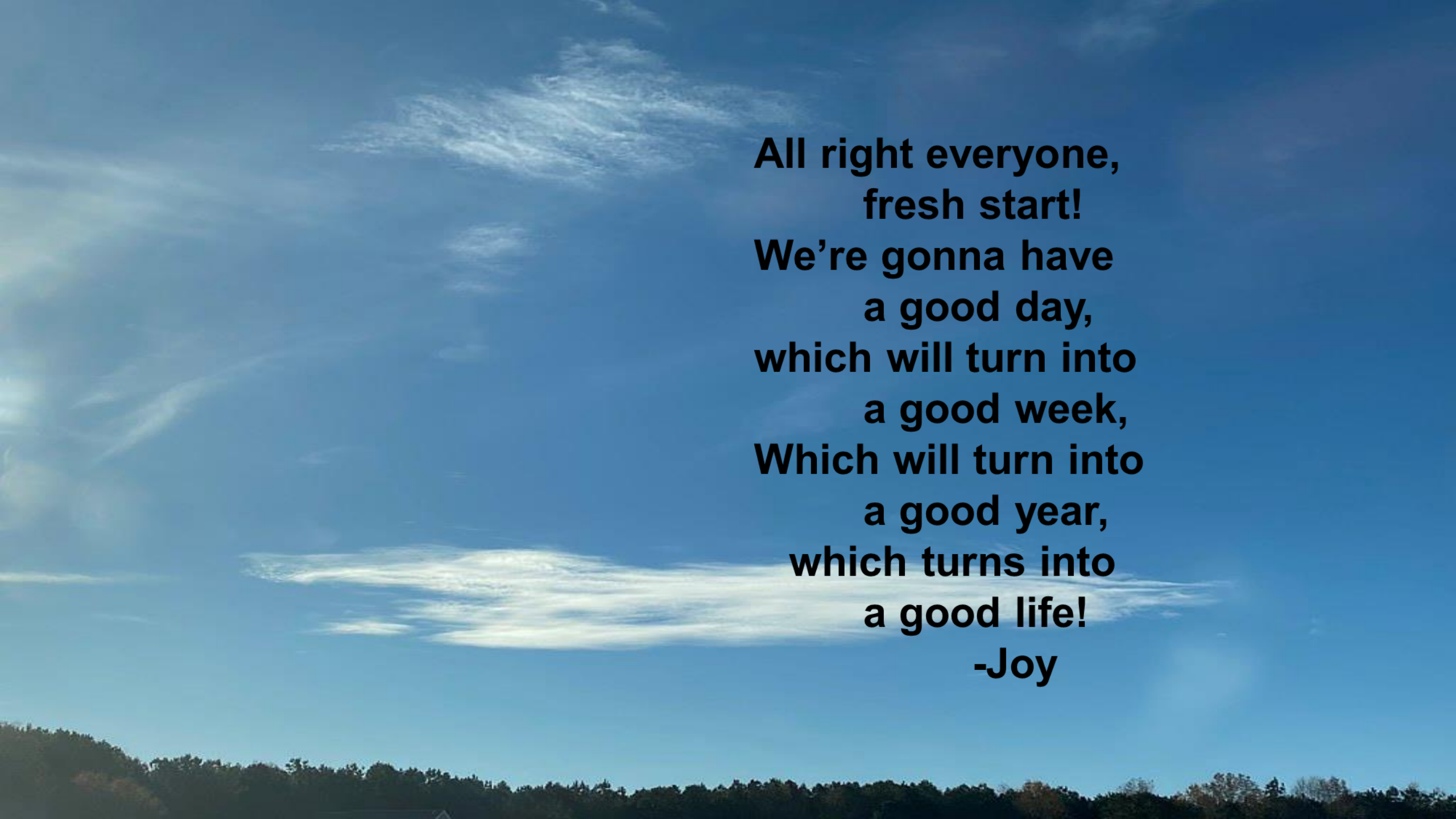
Evaluation
(18)

Section 504 Training

- August 29, 2024 (1:00pm-2:30pm)
- Invitees:
 - Section 504 Coordinators
 - Special Education Directors
 - School Psychologists
 - Others

August						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Phases of the Moon: 4 ● 12 ● 19 ○ 26 ●



**All right everyone,
fresh start!
We're gonna have
a good day,
which will turn into
a good week,
Which will turn into
a good year,
which turns into
a good life!
-Joy**



Disney Pixar's Inside Out 2

Questions?

Contact Information

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