



The 1975 Education for All Handicapped Children Act was renamed in 1997 to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The Acts ensured ALL children have access to a free and appropriate education. IDEA expanded this to include “early intervention and special education programs”. Both a 504 and IEP require a formal evaluation to verify if a student qualifies for services. This team consisting of parents, teachers, administrators and other experts in child development meet to develop this plan. Both are implemented by the public school at no cost to the parent.

There are differences between a 504 and an IEP.

**504:** Provides for accommodations or changes within the classroom environment. They cover any child with a disability that “interferes with the child’s ability to learn in a general education classroom”. 504’s are not standardized, but all members of the team come to an agreement on how to support an individual student. This could be seating placement in a classroom; extra time to take a test, etc. “Better option when the student is able to function well in a regular education environment with accommodations.”

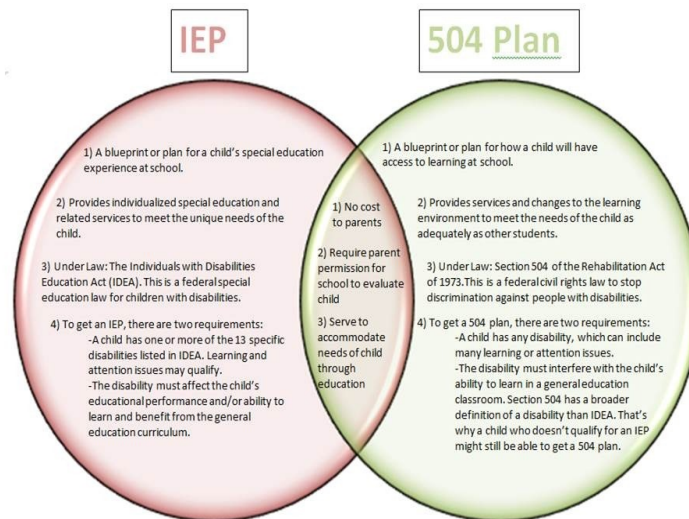
**IEP:** Provides for special educational programs individualized for a student. A student must fall into at least one of the 13 specific disabilities. An IEP has a specific set of goals, lists support services/accommodations, states how the student participates in standardized testing, lists time spent in general education and specials (art, music, PE), and describes the student’s current level of performance. “Better option for students with a disability that is adversely impacting education.”

<https://schoolpsychologistfiles.com/which-is-better-a-504-plan-or-an-iep/>

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/family-relationships/special-needs/special-education-and-childcare/iep-vs-504-plan-for-students-with-special-needs/>

<https://www.raisingarizonakids.com/2015/07/differences-between-504-plans-and-ieps/>

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## Gifted and Talented Education (G.A.T.E)

Approximately 8% of Arizona’s student population are considered “advanced learners”. Public schools are required by Arizona law to provide advanced learning opportunities for gifted learners. However, there are no guidelines or specified curriculum required to be followed by districts.

According to the Arizona Department of Education a “Gifted pupil” is defined as “a child who is of lawful school age, who due to superior intellect or advanced learning ability, or both, is not afforded an opportunity for otherwise attainable progress and development in regular classroom instruction and who needs appropriate gifted education services, to achieve at levels commensurate with the child’s intellect and ability.”

Gifted education programs are mandated in the State of Arizona. Once your child is identified as “gifted” in the state of Arizona, moving to another school district will not affect their placement and the receiving district must also identify your child as gifted once eligibility has been identified.

A student is considered gifted if they have scored at the “97<sup>th</sup> percentile in any one of three reasoning categories (Verbal, Nonverbal or Quantitative Reasoning).” State Board Approved Tests and additional information may be found at: <https://www.azed.gov/gifted-education>.

## Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)



This month we will look at section 400: Graduation. Military students move often and graduation requirements can vary in each state. The Compact may assist those transferring during their Junior and Senior year from losing the necessary credits needed to graduate.

The Compact specifically states that a receiving State shall waive required courses if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed. If the waiver is denied, the school district shall provide an alternative for acquiring the required coursework so the student may graduate on time.

States are expected to accept Exit and End-of-Course exams along with National Norm-Referenced Achievement Tests. In an instance where the receiving state is unable to accommodate or provide alternative testing, then both the receiving and sending school districts will ensure the student receives a diploma from the sending school district. For example: A high school student is currently working on a completion program in Arizona and the family moves to Virginia where the standards are different. Virginia may allow the student to complete their current plan from Arizona and then notifies Arizona of completion. The school district in Arizona provides the student with his/her diploma. Similarly, if a military student transfers during Senior year and is not eligible to graduate from the receiving school district after all alternatives have been considered, both states work together to ensure the student receives his/her diploma from the sending school district.

The Compact also allows districts to waive certain requirements such as "senior projects" and provide an alternative if the student would otherwise not be able to meet that requirement to graduate.

Complete Compact rules may be found at: [https://mic3.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Rules-Book-Edits-20190905\\_HYPERLINK.pdf](https://mic3.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Rules-Book-Edits-20190905_HYPERLINK.pdf)



Some colleges offer CLEP tests that allow you to test out of some lower level courses while earning college credit at the same time.

There are currently 34 exams that could earn you three or more college credits per topic. Topics include History and Social Sciences; Composition and Literature; Science and Mathematics; Business; and World Languages. See <https://clep.collegeboard.org/clep-exams> for a complete list.

It is important to ensure the college you wish to attend, accepts CLEP tests.

Did you know that they also offer these benefits to Military personnel, Spouses of the Coast Guard; Civilians employees of the Air Force and Veterans?

CLEP tests can save you money as you pay a small portion (approximately \$89/subject to change) of what a full semester would cost. They may also help you finish college sooner.

Check out <https://clep.collegeboard.org/> for details.

### Military Child Education Coalition Parent Support Webinars

Registration is required/all webinars presented at **Noon EST**)

Tuesday, October 05, 2021

#### 6921 – Parent Teacher Conferences

<http://militarychild.adobeconnect.com/web6921/event/registration.html>

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

#### 7021 – Grants and Scholarships

<http://militarychild.adobeconnect.com/web7021/event/registration.html>

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

#### 7121- FAFSA and CSS Profile

<http://militarychild.adobeconnect.com/web7121/event/registration.html>

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

#### 7221 – Responsibility and Your Military Connected Child

<http://militarychild.adobeconnect.com/web7221/event/registration.html>

### Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)

The P-EBT program provides families eligible for free or reduced school meals with additional funding to purchase much needed groceries. Parents must fill out the National Free or Reduced Meal Application to determine eligibility. TUSD families only complete an application if your student attends one of the schools listed at <https://mealapp.tusd1.org/>. If listed, please click on the BLUE button at the bottom of the webpage. All other schools in TUSD automatically qualify. For other districts, please check with your student's school. <https://des.az.gov/services/basic-needs/food-assistance/other-food-programs/arizona-p-ebt-benefits>

### Youth Programs

October means it is time for Youth Center (YC) Programs registration. The Youth Center is open M-F for students 9 – 18 yrs. old with base access. They offer a variety of activities such as: STEM, Arts, Power Hour, Informal Sports and Open Rec. Sports Leagues include Flag Football, Basketball, Baseball and Indoor Soccer. Piano is currently being offered as an instructional class. Various camps are offered during the fall and spring breaks. Camp week hours: 0830 – 1200 camp and 1200 – 1730 Open Rec. During school days, Open Rec is open 1400 – 1900. Annual Registration Costs: \$120.00

The School Age Program (SAP) is open 0630 – 1730, with school day hours 0630 – 0830 & 1430 – 1730. SAP provides care for kindergarten to age 12. Cost is based on total household income. Both SAP and YC are affiliated with the BGCA and 4H.

YC: 520-228-8844/SAP: 520-228-8206