



The IEP Advocate

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Helping Families Get Services From The Public School System So Their Children Can Be Successful in School

504 Plans Qualify for McKay Scholarship Quick Reference Sheet

- The law allows a student with a disability to be eligible for a John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities if he or she has a 504 accommodation plan.
- However, students who have a temporary 504 plan, a plan that was written to exist for six months or less, would be ineligible for the McKay Scholarship. Note: Most 504 plans are permanent and last for more than six months. If it is a temporary 504 plan, it will be written on the plan itself. An example of a temporary 504 plan would be if a child broke their arm and had to wear a cast for several weeks. The 504 plan would be written to allow for accommodations while the arm healed.
- The scholarship is based on the current student program cost factor generated by the student under the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP).
- A 504 Accommodation Plan is developed by a team of parents, teachers, and other staff members for a student identified as an individual with a disability under the Rehabilitation Act. The plan provides a description of the accommodations the school will provide to the student. According to the Department of Education, students who have 504 plans do not have individual educational plans or a matrix. Students eligible for a section 504 plan do not require the level of instruction (specialized instruction) required for a student with IEPs. Section 504 plans identify accommodations that allow access to programs.
- The parent of a student with a 504 accommodation plan receives the same notification from a school district about available school choice options as is provided to a student with an IEP (by April 1 of each year).
- Parents are to be notified about available options within 10 days after a 504 accommodation plan is issued.
- The law allows parents of a student with a 504 accommodation plan to enroll their children in a public school in an adjacent school district which has available space, if the school has a program with the services agreed to in the 504 accommodation plan. Parents would be responsible for transportation.
- Parents filing for a McKay Scholarship with a 504 Plan still must comply with the same online application procedures and deadlines as with an IEP.

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