

Introduction

This Guide

The Transition Guide & Directory will provide a reference for students as they develop career and life goals and plans after high school. There are many exciting possibilities and hopefully the information presented in this guide will help students locate the information, people and agencies that can assist in the transition process.

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Law & Legal Issues – What Are My Rights?

There are a number of legal protections for people with disabilities. It is important to understand what these legal protections are and the role and responsibilities of each person, family, school, organization, or business. Below are a number of resources that will help clarify these rights.

Here is a general summary of the laws that protect disabled individuals in school and in work.

Federal laws which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability:

- **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**
 - Title I – applies to employers and workplaces
 - Title II – applies to schools and colleges
- **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**
 - K-12 Schools – school districts are required to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to each child with a disability in the district's jurisdiction
 - Postsecondary Schools – not required to provide FAPE; are required to provide appropriate academic adjustments as necessary to ensure that it does not discriminate on the basis of disability

Federal laws that address transition for K-12 students with disabilities:

- **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 1990** – Mandates transition services for students with disabilities; was the start of Individualized Education Plans (IEP).
- **Amendments to IDEA (1997)** – Broadened the scope of transition by emphasizing that all students with disabilities should have access to the same standards and educational opportunities as other students.

ARIZONA CENTER FOR DISABILITY LAW

www.azdl.com

5025 E. Washington St., Ste. 202, Phoenix, AZ 85034

602-274-6287; 1-800-927-2260

Contact: Natalie Franklin, center@azdisabilitylaw.org

Advocates for the legal rights of persons with disabilities to be free from abuse, neglect and discrimination and to have access to education, health care, housing and jobs, and other services in order to maximize independence and achieve equality.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/index.html>

Resources that support persons with disabilities, their families and the service providers who work with these individuals.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/hq9805.html>

Information about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities guaranteeing equal opportunity in employment, public accommodations, transportation, State and local government services, and telecommunications.

DISABILITY.GOV – EQUAL OPPORTUNITY & PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW

www.disability.gov/civil_rights

Information about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other laws that protect the housing, education, transportation and other rights of people with disabilities.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION: PHOENIX OFFICE

www.eeoc.gov

3300 N Central Ave, Ste 690
Phoenix, AZ 85012
602-640-5000

Federal agency that enforces the laws against job discrimination.

SPECIAL NEEDS ANSWERS

www.specialneedsanswers.com

A community resource provided by *Academy of Special Needs Planners*. Provides a general overview of strategies parents and others can use to plan for their own futures and for those of family members with special needs.