

SENATOR DAVID GOWAN  
Office: (602) 926-5154  
State Senate, Ste. 200  
E-MAIL: dgowan@azleg.gov  
DISTRICT 14



REPRESENTATIVE GAIL GRIFFIN  
Office: (602) 926-5895  
State House, Ste. 225  
E-MAIL: ggriffin@azleg.gov  
DISTRICT 14

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

October 28, 2021

Mr. Michael Wisehart  
Director, Department of Economic Security  
1789 W. Jefferson St  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Mr. Wisehart,

We are writing this letter on behalf of our Pima County constituent, Samuel Ray. Sam is a 16-year-old junior in the Vail School District. Sam receives special education services under the qualifying category Orthopedic Impairment due to the diagnosis of Muscular Dystrophy. He also participates in the Vocational Rehabilitation program. He is non-ambulatory and relies on a power wheelchair to get around. Sam attends evening classes twice a week at Pima CTED to become a licensed, FAA-certified drone operator in adherence to both his Individual Education Plan (IEP) and Individual Plan of Employment (IPE).

Sam's IEP was recently revised to include drone operator training and driver's training. The need to learn to drive was added to Sam's transition goals in his IEP in accordance with The Individual's With Disabilities Act (IDEA) 20 USC 1414 d 1 A i:

§ “(VIII) beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the child is 16, and updated annually thereafter—

§ (aa) appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and, where appropriate, independent living skills;

§ (bb) the transition services (including courses of study) needed to assist the child in reaching those goals;”

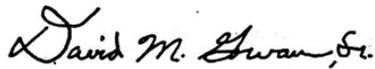
Given this new information, we respectfully ask you to reconsider allowing the adapted driving evaluation and training rehabilitative service to be added to his IPE. This would allow him to complete his training

on time and be ready to enter the workforce upon graduation, thus satisfying the lawful mandate of his IEP transition goals and successfully completing the Vocational Rehabilitation program.

We believe the legislative intent in this matter is clear and DES should be providing driver's training to students through the Vocational Rehabilitation program. If the interpretation of statute does not allow for this training, we will work to clarify it in the coming session.

Sam is an example of how career-focused curriculum (CTED), Special Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation services can work in concert to produce a highly trained, motivated, and work-ready population for Arizona directly out of high school. This is especially valuable for those students who face the additional burden of a physical disability. Our hope is that you reconsider your previous decision regarding Sam's adapted driving request.

Respectfully,



Senator David Gowan  
AZ State Senate, LD 14



Representative Gail Griffin  
AZ House of Representatives, LD 14

Attachments;  
Individual Plan of Employment  
Individual Education Plan