**Question:** Does a child ***have***to have a diagnosis to request a 504 Plan?

**Answer:**  **Christopher Tiffany, Director of Family Support and Education at Raising Special Kids** says:

To be protected under Section 504, a student must be determined to:

§  have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; *or*

§  have a record of such an impairment; *or*

§  be regarded as having such an impairment.

Unfortunately, Arizona does not have any policies or procedures on 504 and leaves it up to individual districts to interpret the Act. The above definition is vague, and most school districts want to see a medical diagnosis to confirm the ‘physical or mental impairment.’

Though technically the answer to your question is ‘no’, the follow-up question the school may ask is, then how can the child have a record of impairment or be regarded as having an impairment if there is no documentation? Kind of a Catch-22.

Here are links that may help:

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/section504/>

<http://www.raisingspecialkids.org/_media/uploaded/5/0e1833693_1402347878_504sampleschoolpolicy504manual.pdf>

<http://www.raisingspecialkids.org/_media/uploaded/5/0e1833669_504faqs.pdf>

<http://www.mpsaz.org/ssc/504/>