

Immediate Temporary Accommodation Plan

Problem: Students with concussions returning to school, while also recovering from their concussion, run the risk of falling behind in their classwork which can lead to uncharacteristically poor academic outcomes for the student. Concussion also has an invisible impact on a child's social emotional well-being and can lead to social isolation, behavioral challenges and mental health obstacles

Risk: If a student recovering from a concussion is not given appropriate academic, social, and behavioral accommodation during their recovery, a short-term injury can have long-term, detrimental effects on that student's overall success.

Solution: Schools need to provide temporary academic, social, and behavioral accommodations and supports to students recovering from concussions.

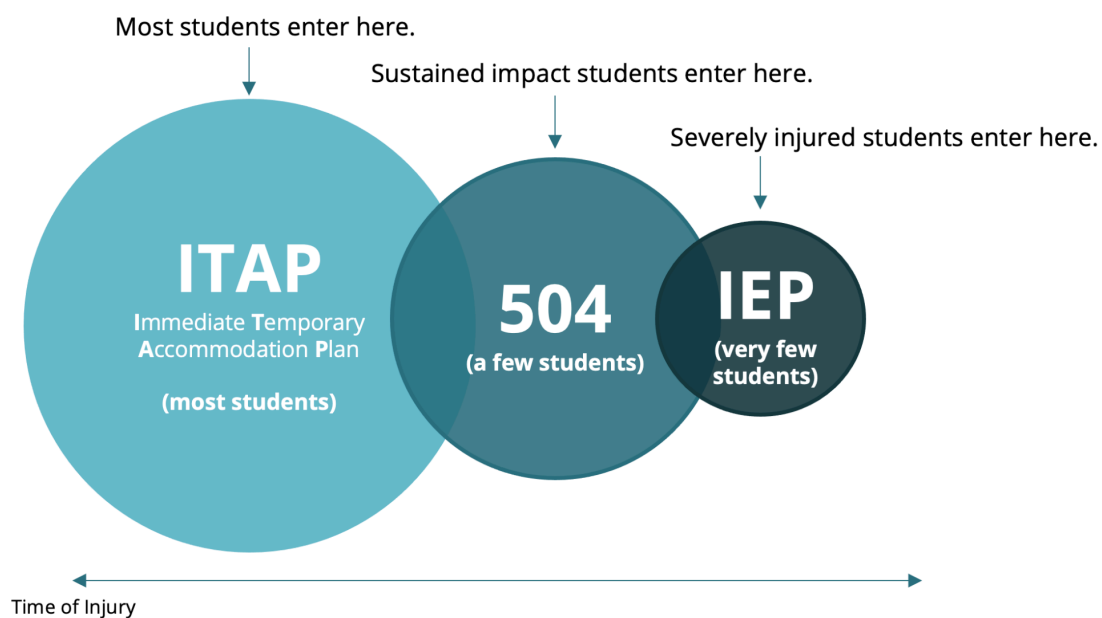
Analysis: The Texas Education Agency (TEA) identifies accommodations for students recovering from concussions on its website. Leaders in Texas demonstrate an understanding of the needs of students recovering from concussions. Unfortunately, these recommended accommodations are not generally provided to the students who need them. In other words, the TEA knows what accommodations are necessary, but that knowledge is not applied with a plan.

A model has been developed to create a simple plan for educators to follow to provide accommodations necessary to ensure a student's brain has time to heal so they can achieve their full potential. It is called an **Immediate Temporary Accommodation Plan, or ITAP**. An ITAP acknowledges the immediate need for accommodation for students with concussions returning to school and describes those accommodations in terms of three categories: Academic, Social, and Behavioral.

Providing simple post-concussion accommodations protects students' academic, social, emotional, and athletic potential.

The ITAP is important for all students after a concussion, it is especially important for student athletes on the path to postsecondary education and scholarship at a Division I or Division II institution. A GPA threshold is integral in determining what college or university a student athlete will attend. Without temporary school accommodations, a concussion could result in catastrophic outcomes for their future potential on and off the field of play.

Conclusion: Legislation endorsing the ITAP is a necessary step toward protecting our students' academic and athletic exceptionalism. Without this legislation, a short-term brain injury can have long-term, negative permanent consequences.



Draft Legislation

By: [_____]

__B. No. ____

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to students diagnosed with a concussion or other brain injury.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Education Code, is amended by adding new Section [38.041] to read as follows:

Sec. 38.041. CONCUSSION OR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ACCOMMODATIONS FORM. (a) The Texas Education Agency shall develop a form for use by public schools when a student has been diagnosed with a concussion or other brain injury.

(b) The form required under this section must describe academic accommodations that a school may make for a student who has been diagnosed with a concussion or other brain injury. The accommodations must be optional for a public school to provide and must be nonmedical.

(c) The Texas Education Agency must make the form available for use by public schools, and school employees, students, parents and guardians and must make the form available on the Agency website.

(d) Public schools must make the form available as soon as practicable to an educator, school employee, student, parent or guardian when:

(1) The school receives notice that a student has been diagnosed with a concussion or other brain injury; or

(2) Upon request by an educator, school employee, student, or parent or guardian.

(d) Nothing in this section requires a school to provide any or all of the academic accommodations described on the form.

(e) The commissioner may adopt rules and prescribe forms to assist in the implementation of this section.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.