

Defining who they are under No Child Left Behind (NCLB)?

Students with disabilities who are not significantly cognitively disabled but who may be severely learning disabled or mildly mentally retarded.

Students perform at a higher level than those with severe cognitive disabilities - too high to be assessed based on alternate achievement standards.

Learning well below grade level.

Students often function 3 to 5 years below grade level.

Students do not meet the criteria of the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP).

What can I do if I am or my student is a GAP Kids?

There are many resources available to youth with disabilities through national and state youth organizations. Check out our websites for information and ideas on how to be included in your community through advocacy, awareness and education. Our web-site addresses are:

<http://www.voiceforgapkids.com>

JustChildren, Legal Justice Center:
<http://www.justice4all.org/foryou/>

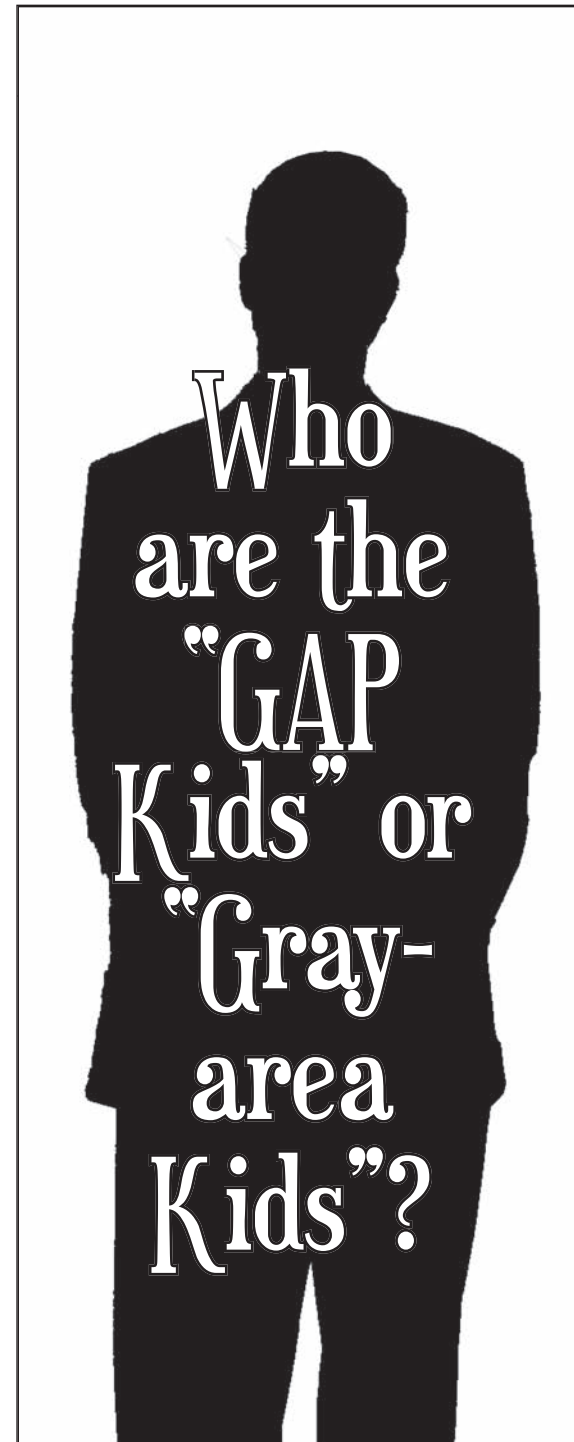
Students may contact: Tim Moore
tim@voiceforgapkids.com

Parents may contact: Linda Moore
linda@voiceforgapkids.com

Or Call: (804) 749-3895

A Voice for GAP Kids

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Purpose of "A Voice for GAP Kids":

1. To share information with students and parents about GAP Kids.
2. To educate legislators & policy makers on issues that affect GAP Kids.
3. To advocate on the federal and state level for changes in Public Policy to address the educational issues of "GAP Kids"

Educational issues that impact GAP Kids (students with IEP's in grades 9-11):

1. Students have no access to the General Education Curriculum
2. Students have no opportunity to earn standard units of credit and verified credits required to graduate with a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma
3. Students do not qualify for remediation or tutoring since they are non-participants in the Virginia Accountability System.

The group continues to advocate that the following issues be addressed in Virginia Public Schools through NCLB Act:

1. Eliminating the option of allowing Students with IEP's grades 9-11 to be Non-participants in the Virginia Accountability System.
2. All students will be counted towards the schools (AYP).
3. Require students to be given the option to access Off-site instruction (alternative) for courses that are not available to the students at the local high school.
4. A secondary school must accept credits received from other accredited secondary schools, including schools accredited through the Virginia Council for Private Education (VCPE) fro all students with or without disabilities. (8 VAC 20-131-60. Transfer of credits.)
5. Require school districts to provide education services to students with disabilities until the age of 22, to enable them to continue to pursue a Standard or Advance Studies Diploma (8 VAC 20-131-50). Students must not be excluded from the courses and tests required to earn a Standard or Advaced Studies Diploma.



Why this group of students exists?

Under the No Child left Behind Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, at least 95% of students with disabilities are required to participate in assessments that measure adequate yearly progress of schools, school divisions, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In the latest round of interpretation of (NCLB), schools/ districts are allowed to include the proficient scores of 1% of the students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who participate in alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards.

However, currently there may be a small number of students with IEP's in grades 9-11 who will not be enrolled in any courses for which there is an end-of-course Standards of Learning assessment, will not be working towards an advanced studies diploma, standard diploma, or modified standard diploma, and will not meet the criteria of the (VAAP).

The current trend of school district is to simply instruct the IEP team to use this option for any student (you are not sure will test well on the SOL tests).

If this option is used the student is not allow to enroll in the courses and take the test required to earn an advance studies diploma, standard diploma, or modified standard diploma and also are not counted towards the schools Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Currently the Virginia Department of Education does not keep any data on the number of "gap kids or gray-area kids" there are in each school district.

What are the consequences of being a Gap kid or Gray-area kid in Virginia if you are in High School?

Not all diplomas are created equal! The type of diploma you earn could open or shut doors when it comes to jobs, higher education, or the military. For more information:

JustChildren, Legal Justice Center
<http://www.justice4all.org/foryou/>
and click on:

The Standards of Learning:
A Guide for Parents

Students in grades 9-11 are not enrolled in courses that have an end-of-course Standard of Learning assessments. Therefore the student does not earn a standard unit of credit or a verified credit required to graduate with a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma. Additionally, students do not qualify for remediation or tutoring since they are not enrolled in any of the courses that have an end-of-course Standard of Learning assessments.