



NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATION AND INCENTIVES NEWSLETTER

October 2024

CHANGE AHEAD

Consider this the **CHANGES** Edition.
Please ensure maximum distribution!

Changes that are coming:

- **Required ArmyIgnitED 101 Training**
- Updates to the C/A Withdraw Process
- **C/A use of DA Form 7793 clarified**
- New GI Bill rates effective 01 October 2024
- **Personnel changes**

This month read about:

- ArmyIgnitED 101 Training
- GI Bill rate changes
- C/A Updates
- Personnel Changes/Know your Teams
- NGB Marketing Focus
- Arizona State Tuition Reimbursement (STR) program

READ ALL
ABOUT IT!

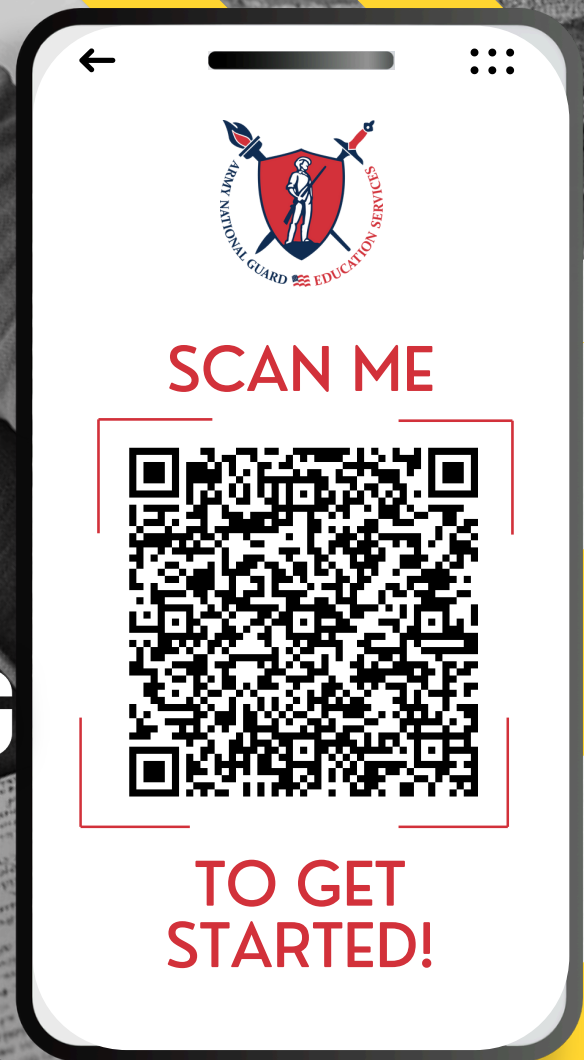
READ ALL
ABOUT IT!

Attention: New FTA Users!!

1. View the training
2. Send a Student Message through ArmyIgnited that you completed the training
3. Create your Education Goal

Your Education Goal will NOT be approved until you send a Student Message stating you have completed the training!!!!!!!

ARMYIGNITED 101 TRAINING NOW REQUIRED!



As of 1 October 2024, ArmyIgnited 101 training is required before Soldiers can get an education goal approved. Soldiers can access the training via MS TEAMS, nationalguard.com, LinkedIn, or their state education office.

Important! After reviewing the briefing, Soldiers must send a message to their education counselor via ArmyIgnitedED stating that they completed the training.

*Soldiers who have previously used ArmyIgnitedED to receive FTA are exempt from this requirement.



Download the brief from the the ARNG- Public Education Services Team in the general channel files tab.



Training slides are available for easy download on our LinkedIn Page



Watch the video on Youtube or type copy the URL to your browser <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7K8X8srNfgY>

Contact the Arizona Army NG Education Office
(602) 267-2445 for more information.



SHOW ME THE MONEY!!!!

Updated GI Bill Rates

Effective 01 October 2024

For more information, visit the
VA website at:

<https://www.va.gov/education/benefit-rates/>

MGIB-SR- Chapter 1606 Rates:

- Full-time enrollment: \$481.00 for a full month
- 3/4-time enrollment: \$360.00 for each full month
- 1/2-time enrollment: \$240.00 for each full month
- Less than 1/2-time enrollment: \$120.25 for each full month



MGIB-AD - Chapter 30 Rates:

- Full-time enrollment: \$2,438.00 for each full month
- 3/4-time enrollment: \$1,828.50 for each full month
- 1/2-time enrollment: \$1,219.00 for each full month
- Less than 1/2-time and more than 1/4-time enrollment:
 - \$1,219.00 for each full month OR
 - The cost of your tuition and fees (whichever is less)
- 1/4-enrollment or less:
 - \$609.50 for each full month OR
 - The cost of your tuition and fees (whichever is less)



<https://www.va.gov/education/benefit-rates/>



ARMY CREDENTIALING ASSISTANCE

Change #1: WITHDRAW PROCESS CHANGE

- Soldiers must contact both the Army Credentialing Assistance Program Office (ACAPO) and the Vendor when withdrawing from training/exam.
 - Previously Soldiers were required to contact ACAPO only.

Change #2: USE OF DA FORM 7793 in WAIVER PROCESS

- Only those Soldiers requesting a recoupment waiver will download, complete, and submit the CA Withdrawal Form, DA Form 7793.
- A separate DA Form 7793 must be submitted for each course when a grade of "W" is submitted.
 - Previously, all Soldiers requesting a withdrawal were required to submit the DA Form 7793.



**WE
WILL
MISS
YOU!**

PSSSST.. Did you hear? SGT Mackenzie accepted a new job!!!!!!

We are so proud of the work SGT Mackenzie accomplished as the GI Bill Manager. She helped countless Soldiers with their GI Bill issues, education questions, and even assisted with incentive issues. We wish her the best of luck in her new position. She will be greatly missed from our office.
GOOD BYE AND GOOD LUCK SGT MACKENZIE!!!

Other changes:

- Dr. Perry has been selected to fill an Army Expeditionary Civilian Workforce (AECW) position. In this position, Dr. Perry will deploy for approximately six (6) months. She will be serving as an Education Services Specialist, supporting deployed Soldiers.
- While Dr. Perry is gone, Ms. Ilka Davidson, the Education Services Specialist from California, will cover all things ArmyIgnitED, Federal Tuition Assistance, and Credentialing Assistance for Arizona Army National Guard Soldiers.
- Mr. Charles Smith, your Education Services Officer, will be working with Ms. Davidson to ensure continued support for Arizona Army Guard Soldiers.
- REMEMBER--All National Guard Education Counselors can access the Student Message function in ArmyIgnitED. If you have any questions, please continue to use Student Messages in ArmyIgnitED.

Did you know, the United States is divided into 4 regions for Educational Support. Arizona is part of Region IV (4). Region IV has 7 Education Services Specialists monitoring ArmyIgnitED. If one person is out, the other 6 provide support. This means, even when your specific counselor is out, you have at least 6 other people to provide support.

See next page for contact info.

The best way to reach an Education Counselor is to call the Education Office OR send a Student Message in ArmyIgnitED.



Do you know YOUR Education and Incentives Team???



Education Services Officer

Mr. Charles Smith

(602) 629-4687 charles.o.smith20.civ@army.mil

Incentives Program Manager

Ms. Maria Powell

(602) 267-2115

maria.m.powell.civ@army.mil



ADOS SLRP NCO SGT Phillis

(602) 629-4392

brett.r.phillis.mil@army.mil

State Tuition Manager

Mr. Josh Bjork

(602) 267-2445

joshua.w.bjork.nfg@army.mil



Education Services Specialist

Ms. Ilka Davidson

ilka.i.davidson.civ@army.mil

(562) 795-2485

BEST PRACTICE:

Send a Student Message through ArmyIgnitED



General Office email:

ng.az.azarng.list.g1-education@army.mil

**Remember--you can ALWAYS send a Student Message through
ArmyIgnitED!!!!**

OCTOBER 2024

ENGAGING WITH YOUR EDUCATION OFFICE

To increase awareness of education benefits, each month the ARNG Education Services community focuses on a different education program/ service. Our focus this month is:

Engaging with your State Education Office

What is the Education Office?

Every state/territory has an education office that provides education support and counseling to their ARNG Soldiers, dependents, and veterans.

What do they provide?

Education offices provide support & counseling for:

- The GI-Bill® Programs
- Post-9/11 GI Bill Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB)
- Federal Tuition Assistance
- State Tuition Assistance
- Credentialing Assistance
- Army Personnel Testing
- DANTES Programs and Services
- Joint Services Transcript
- Registered Apprenticeship
- Financial Aid and Grants
- College Scholarships
- Spouse Education Support

How to get support or counseling?

You can contact your state education office by using the link below to find your state/territory POCs or you can message them on [ArmyIgnitED!](#)

Contact your Education Office

www.nationalguard.com/select-your-state



Join us on social media
[@arngeducation](#)





State Tuition Reimbursement (STR) for Members of the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA)

1. What is it?

- STR is a financial reimbursement program provided to eligible Arizona National Guard members, eligible spouses and dependents, and members of the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs for education programs. (Reference: AR 621-5, Army Continuing Education System & DEMA Pamphlet 40-4 DTD 30 August 2024)

2. How Do I Qualify? STR eligibility is limited to members of DEMA Who:

- Have completed a semester as a full or part-time undergraduate or graduate student at a university, attend a community college for which credit toward a degree is granted, or will receive a certificate from a vocational/technical school or a VA qualified correspondence course.
- Must be a full-time employee of DEMA and have a current evaluation equal to "meets expectations."
- Remain employed with DEMA for twelve (12) months after the completion of the course for which reimbursement is claimed. (**A pro-rated amount of the reimbursement will be recouped if employee resigns prior to the 12 month requirement.**)
- Courses must be taken during off duty hours or during periods of approved leave. Consideration may be given to the following, provided the arrangement does not impair delivery of services or attainment of work objectives:
 - An adjusted work week
 - Voluntary use of compensatory or annual leave
- Maintained an average academic grade of "C" for each course. Those schools or courses in which a grading system is used other than the alphabetical system, a grade equivalent to "C" or better will be acceptable.
- Courses must be taken with schools/vendors recognized by the board, departments, and agencies of the State of Arizona, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the US Army National Guard (through ArmyIgnited) as being a valid educational institution.
 - Veteran Affairs GI Bill Comparison Tool (<https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool>)
 - American Council on Education Directory (<https://acememberdirectory.azurewebsites.net/>)
 - ArmyIgnited Institution Search (<https://www.armyignited.army.mil> National Guard CAC Required)
 - Army Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) (<https://www.cool.osd.mil/army/index.html>)
 - Arizona Boards and Commissions List (<https://bc.azgovernor.gov/bc/boards-and-commissions-list>)

3. What Do I Get?

- DEMA members will receive **\$5250.00** per state fiscal year (1JUL- 30JUN). Eligible members may receive no more than **\$250.00** per semester hour for requested courses.

4. What is the application Process?

- Apply at: <https://dema.az.gov/education>
- The following forms must be completed accurately and submitted for an application to proceed beyond the initial review:
 - Complete AZ Form 621-300-2, dated 30 August 2024 (Complete to block 17, supervisor completes 18 to 20)
 - Arizona W-9- Tax Payer Identification form (Complete in entirety)
 - Arizona ACH- Bank Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) form (Complete in entirety)
- The application must be sent/emailed/postmarked no later than twenty-one (21) calendar days after the start of the semester/course term to the Education Services Office. The employee must also provide a course schedule showing course start and end dates.

5. Submit Final Documents:

- Upon completion of the course, the member must provide a system generated unofficial or official transcript and an itemized receipt showing a zero (\$0.00) balance for the appropriate course(s) to the Education Services Office within twenty-five (25) days from the date grades are posted by the institution. Members may submit this documentation by email, in person, or by certified mail, to the address listed below.
- Application packages must have submission of this final documentation to qualify for payout.

6. Reimbursement:

- Tuition reimbursement will be made on a semester basis (determined by quarters) and shall immediately follow STR Board/TAG approval.
- DEMA members not granted tuition reimbursement will be notified of non-selection.

For More Information:

Arizona National Guard Education Services Office
5636 E. McDowell Rd. Bldg. M5710
Phoenix, AZ. 85008
Main Line: **602-267-2445**

E-Mail: azdema.tuition.reimbursement@army.mil



State Tuition Reimbursement (STR) for Service Members and Families of the Arizona National Guard

1. What is it?

- STR is a financial reimbursement program provided to eligible Arizona National Guard members, eligible spouses and dependents, and members of the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs for education programs. (Reference: AR 621-5, Army Continuing Education System & DEMA Pamphlet 40-4 DTD 30 August 2024)

2. How Do I Qualify? To be eligible (service members, spouses, or dependents) the AZNG Member:

- Have satisfactorily completed IADT/Technical Training and Student Flight and performed duty upon returning at a minimum of ninety percent (90%) attendance of scheduled UTA dates and annual training. Service members must be in good standing and have no active flags.
- Must be active drilling members of the Arizona National Guard and not have an ETS date or resign from the National Guard within twelve (12) months from completion date of the course for which reimbursement is claimed. (*A pro-rate amount of reimbursement may be recouped if the twelve month obligation is not served.*)
- (All applicants) Have completed a semester as a full or part-time undergraduate or graduate student at a university, attend a community college for which credit toward a degree is granted, or will receive a certificate from a vocational/technical school or a VA qualified correspondence course.
- (All applicants) Maintained an average academic grade of "C" for each course. Those schools or courses in which a grading system is used other than the alphabetical system, a grade equivalent to "C" or better will be acceptable.
- Courses must be taken with schools/vendors recognized by the board, departments, and agencies of the State of Arizona, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the US Army National Guard (through ArmyIgnited) as being a valid educational institution.
 - Veteran Affairs GI Bill Comparison Tool (<https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool>)
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 - ArmyIgnited Institution Search (<https://www.armyignited.army.mil> National Guard CAC Required)
 - Army Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) (<https://www.cool.osd.mil/army/index.html>)
 - Arizona Boards and Commissions List (<https://bc.azgovernor.gov/bc/boards-and-commissions-list>)

3. What Do I Get?

- STR will pay up to **\$250** per semester hour not to exceed **\$5,250** per State Fiscal year (1 July to 30 June). If some of the service member's STR funds have already been used by his/her eligible spouse/dependents, the service member would only be eligible for the funds that have not been used, up to a maximum of **\$5,250**.

4. What is the application Process?

- Applications can be downloaded from <https://dema.az.gov/education>
- The following forms must be completed accurately and submitted for an application to proceed beyond the initial review:
 - Complete AZ Form 621-300-1, dated 30 August 2024 (Complete Blocks 1 to 26)
 - Arizona W-9- Tax Payer Identification form (Complete in entirety)
 - Arizona ACH- Bank Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) form (Complete in entirety)
- The application must be sent/emailed/postmarked no later than twenty-one (21) calendar days after the start of the semester/course term to the Education Services Office. The member must also provide a course schedule showing course start and end dates.

5. Submit Final Documents:

- Upon completion of the course, the service member must provide a system generated unofficial or official transcript and an itemized receipt showing a zero (\$0.00) balance for the appropriate course(s) to the Education Services Office within twenty-five (25) days from the date grades are posted by the institution. Service members may submit this documentation by email, in person, or by certified mail, to the address listed below.
- Application packages must have submission of this final documentation to qualify for payout.

6. Reimbursement:

- Tuition reimbursement will be made on a semester basis (determined by quarters) and shall immediately follow STR Board/TAG approval.
- Service members not granted tuition reimbursement will be notified of non-selection.

For More Information:

Arizona National Guard Education Services Office
5636 E. McDowell Rd. Bldg. M5710
Phoenix, AZ. 85008
Main Line: **602-267-2445**

E-Mail: [**azdema.tuition.reimbursement@army.mil**](mailto:azdema.tuition.reimbursement@army.mil)

KNOW YOUR DEADLINES



State Tuition Reimbursement:

- Submit all applications for State Tuition Reimbursement NLT 21 days AFTER course/term starts.
- Submit all final documents must be submitted within 25 days after the school posts the grades for the course

Credentialing Assistance (CA):

- Requests may be submitted 90-45 days prior to the start date of the training or exam
- Requests MUST be submitted NLT 45 days prior to the start date of the training or exam

Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA):

- Requests may be submitted 60 - 8 days prior to the term start date
- Requests MUST be submitted NLT 8 days prior to the term start date

CA and FTA CANNOT be applied retroactively. If a Soldier misses the deadline, the Soldier will NOT receive CA/FTA for that course. Soldiers SHOULD NOT pay for any training prior to receiving an approved CA request. CA is NOT a reimbursement program, if a Soldier pays out of pocket prior to CA approval, the Soldier WILL NOT receive any CA funds.

Questions? Need help? Please reach out to the Education and Incentives Office. We can be reached on the phone, email or through ArmyIgnited using the Student Message function.