

You're in the Driver's Seat:

Navigating Laws, Services and Independence as You Enter College



Applicable Laws

High School	College
Special Education Law	Civil Rights Law
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 & Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
Covers ages 3-21 or until regular high school diploma requirements are met.	Covers students with disabilities regardless of age; schools may not discriminate in recruitment, admission or after admission, solely on the basis of a disability.
IDEA is to provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment to eligible students with disabilities, including special education and related services. 504 is to ensure that no otherwise qualified person with disability is denied access to, benefits of, or is subjected to discrimination in any program or activity provided by any public institution or entity.	504/ADA is to ensure that no otherwise qualified person with a disability is denied access or is subjected to discrimination in any program or activity provided by any public school entity.
Success for every student.	Equal access and participation for all.

Parent Role

High School	College
Parent has right to student records and are notified and required by law to give permission for any decisions regarding their son or daughter.	Parent does not have access to student records without their child's written consent in accordance to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
Parent advocates for students.	Student advocates for self.

Services

High School	College
Student is identified by the school district. School districts are responsible for providing services and accommodations at no cost to students or parents.	To receive any accommodations, students are responsible for identifying themselves as disabled and supplying supporting documentation to their colleges.
School districts are responsible for gathering documentation.	You must provide “proof” of your disability. Colleges can set their own guidelines for documentation.
School districts are required to identify students with disabilities through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process.	To receive any accommodations, students are responsible for identifying themselves as disabled and supplying supporting documentation to their colleges.
Schools conduct assessments to determine eligibility at no cost to students or parents.	Colleges do not have to assess the student. The student must pay for or find appropriate funding for assessments which provide documentation to prove his/her disability.
Students receive services through their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and/or 504 Plan.	Colleges are required only to offer reasonable accommodations and support services; not services of a personal nature.
Primary responsibility for arranging accommodations belongs to the schools.	Primary responsibility for self-advocacy and arranging accommodations belongs to the students.