



The Difference Between High School and College for Students with Disabilities



Services for Students with Disabilities

Ben-Ami Freier, Director

Andrew Muller, Assistant Director

Sheryl Sobel, CUNY Leads Advisor

Our Differences

High School	College
Transportation is provided	Transportation and mobility on campus are the responsibility of the student.
Often paraprofessionals are provided if a student needs personal care or behavioral assistance.	The college is not responsible for providing personal care or behavioral management assistance.
Assistive technology is minimally used.	Students are expected to use available assistive technology.
Few students are exposed to textbooks on tape because special educators clarify reading selections.	Students use textbooks on tape or e-text as indicated.

Legal Differences

High School	College
Services are provided under IDEA or section 504, Subpart D	Services are provided under ADA any and section 504, subpart E.
The IEP is mandated and followed.	The high school IEP ends, and there is no IEP at the college level.
The student has a right to an education, paid for by the state. Therefore, special programs are created to meet students' needs.	A college education is a privilege instead of a right, and special programs are not required.
Planning meetings involve a school team and parents/family members of the student.	Students are considered adults; therefore parents are not a part of the planning process.
Accommodations are provided to ensure the success of the student.	Accommodations are provided to ensure equal access. Success is the responsibility of the student.
School districts are responsible for identifying and evaluating disability at no cost to the student family.	The student must self-identify and provide appropriate and current documentation. The College is not responsible for providing evaluations.
Parents sign documents for students.	Students of legal age sign all documents.
High school personnel talk freely with parents.	The Buckley Amendment requires that the student give written permission to personnel to talk to parents.

Academic Differences

High School	College
High school personnel have the responsibility to try to modify inappropriate behavior caused by the disability into appropriate behavior.	Students are responsible for their own behavior and inappropriate behavior is not tolerated.
Tests and/or questions may be modified or shortened.	Students are expected to take the same tests as all students.
Shortened or modified assignments as well as extra time to complete the assignments are often given.	Students are expected to do the same work in the same time frame as all students.
Teachers are asked to adapt their teaching style to the student.	Faculty has academic freedom in delivery, course content, requirements, and method of evaluation.
Accommodations are given for all subjects and do not have to be supported by diagnostic evaluation.	Accommodations are provided only in the area of disability and must be supported by documentation.
Students are scheduled to see resource personnel on a regular basis or can come to the resource room on a drop in basis.	Students must initiate requests for services.
Students' study is directed by special education teachers.	Students must have skills to organize, plan, and study independently.
Special educators inform instructors about a student's accommodation needs.	Accommodations are generally arranged through the Disability Service provider at the college.