

Difference Between High School and College for Students With Disabilities

In order to understand the differences between being a student in special education in high school and being a student in college with a disability, it is important to have some understanding of the legislation that mandates how each educational institution operates.

High School

College

What is the law?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) ● Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ● IDEA is about <i>Success</i>. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title II) ● Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ● ADA is about <i>Access</i> |
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What documentation is required?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IEP (Individualized Education Plan) and/or 504 Plan ● School is responsible for identifying and evaluating potential students with disabilities. ● School provides evaluations at no cost to the student. ● Documentation focuses on determining whether or not a student is eligible for services based on specific disability categories provided by IDEA. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● High School IEP/504 Plan may not be sufficient documentation of disability. ● The student may need to obtain further documentation. Evaluations are at the students' expense. ● Documentation must provide information on specific limitations caused by the disability and demonstrate the need for accommodations. |
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Who is responsible for providing services?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The school is responsible for identifying students with disabilities. ● Parents and/or guardians are the primary advocates. ● Primary responsibility for arranging accommodations belongs to the school. ● Teachers must approach students if they believe you need assistance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students must self-identify to the Office of Accommodations and Accessibility. ● Primary responsibility for requesting accommodations belongs to the student. ● Conversations with parents only occur with written permission from the student. |
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