



Disability Services: High School vs College



Laws and Policies



High School

- Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the ADA (1990, 2008), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, children are entitled to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).
- Schools must make necessary modifications to curriculum & services.
- In primary and secondary education, learning is considered a **right**.

College

- Students with a qualifying disability who self-disclose their disability are protected under the ADA (1990, 2008) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and may receive reasonable accommodations.
- Students must meet standard college admission requirements.
- Colleges are not required to alter core curriculum.
- In college, education is considered an **opportunity**.

Roles and Responsibilities



- Schools identify students requiring additional support.
- Relevant assessments are conducted to determine and classify educationally relevant diagnoses (e.g., learning disabilities).
- An individualized education plan (IEP) or 504 plan is developed and communicated to caregivers, students, and educators.
- Student progress is regularly monitored and reviewed.

- Students must comply with all college policies, including conduct, academics, and course requirements.
- Students are responsible for self-disclosing their diagnosis to Student Accessibility Services (SAS).
- Students bear the cost of any required assessments, if needed.
- Students must submit relevant documentation of the diagnosed disability to the SAS office.
- Students monitor their accommodation plans with SAS support.
- Students request accommodation letters be sent to faculty.

Communication



- Schools must communicate directly with parent/caregiver regarding student's plan and progress.

- The SAS office communicates directly with the student regarding accommodations and support.
- Colleges cannot share information with parents or caregivers without the student's consent.
- Students are expected to self-advocate with both the SAS office and faculty.