

# College Night for Parents and Students with Learning Differences

Slides Developed from the NCLD handout by  
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[www.nclid.org](http://www.nclid.org)

<b>High School</b>	<b>College</b>
<p><b>Special Education Model</b> School personnel “find you” and decide what eligibility for services and supports</p>	<p><b>Accommodations Model</b> You must request help; no one will come to find you.</p>
<p><b>Where you receive services</b> Special Education classroom, Resource Room, related service provider room (e.g. speech)</p>	<p><b>Where you receive services</b> Differs from one to another (“Office of Disability Support Services,” “Special Services”)</p>

## High School

### Documentation

- Coordinated by school psychologist or CSE appointed staff person
- School develops IEP from documentation and test results
- Paid for by school

## College

### Documentation

- You must provide “proof” of your disability (e.g. HS records, independent reports e.g. medical, mental health, educational)
- Colleges can set their own guidelines for documentation ( e.g. no more than 3 years old, adult assessment measures, )
- High schools are not required to do a comprehensive evaluation before graduation
- After HS, you are responsible for paying for new evaluations

## High School

### **Special Education Law**

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) provides the mandate and funding to schools for in-school special education services as well as transportation/ buses to school, physical, occupational, speech therapy, and tutoring

## College

### **Civil Rights Law**

- American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation
- Colleges are required only to offer accommodations & support services, not services of a personal nature.
- Tutoring is not required under ADA. Some colleges offer tutoring through disability services and some colleges have tutoring centers for all students.
- Foreign Language waivers & other course substitutions are not automatic

# While still in high school you need to:

## Find out about your disability:

- Talk to your parents, high school special education teacher, or guidance counselor to learn about your specific disabilities
- Understand the academic impact of your disability
- Understand your areas of strength and weakness
- Make sure that you have current documentation
- Read your disability documentation and understand it.
- Learn to express your current and future needs, concerns, interests, and preferences

# While still in high school you need to:

## Do your homework! Consider:

- What services/programs each prospective college provides through their disability support office or other office that handles disability accommodations
- How often are services available? Are the service providers on campus and available on an as-needed basis?
- Are there restrictions (e.g. times per week) or additional costs for using these services?

# Programs vs. Support Services

- **Programs** are specifically designed for students with disabilities and provide more in-depth services and accommodations. Not all colleges have these types of programs. When offered, the most common types are designed for students with learning disabilities and/or ADHD. These programs usually have costs in addition to tuition. These programs often provide one-on-one tutoring and sessions with a learning disability specialist.
- **Support Services** are the resources available at no cost for students with disabilities. Support services include reasonable accommodations, such as extended time for assignment and testing, note-takers, the use of a calculator, and preferential seating in classrooms.

# **YOU'VE BEEN ACCEPTED TO A COLLEGE! NOW WHAT?**

Register with the college's disability services office or program. Remember you need to:

- Contact that campus office—they will not find you.
- Provide disability documentation that is current & meets college guidelines.
- Request that accommodations you will need (note-takers, assistive listening devices, testing modifications, textbooks on tape, etc.).
- Request those accommodations before scheduled placement tests or you will not receive accommodations for those tests.



# **YOU'VE BEEN ACCEPTED TO A COLLEGE! NOW WHAT?**

Arrange other supports not provided by the school:

- Do you need things like counseling, medication management, or other supports? Who will provide them for you & how will they affect your schedule?
- Develop back up plans for these supports.