

# Transition to College: Processes and Approaches to Support Disabled Students

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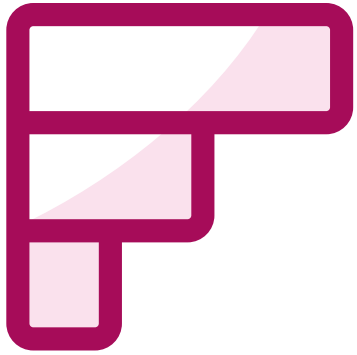
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# Agenda



- Types of Postsecondary Education & Training
- The Laws & Differences Between High School and College
- Dispelling Myths
- Disabilities & Accommodations
- How to Get It Done
- Resources



**What type of postsecondary education and training are you (the student) interested in? Parents: what postsecondary options has your student been talking about?**

# Types of Postsecondary Education & Training

- Transition & Comprehensive Postsecondary programs – [ThinkCollege!](#)
- [Apprenticeships](#) – earn & learn training with employers or unions
- [Career Technical Education](#) – vocational training – culinary, carpentry/construction, welding, automotive, etc.
- Community & Technical Colleges – AA/AS 2-year transfer degrees, certificates, vocational programs including nursing, PTA/OTA, surgical tech, business, engineering technician, computer/IT, multi-media
- College & University – 4-year bachelor degrees (some offer 2-year AA/AS degrees), advanced degrees (masters, doctorate), usually can transfer in AA/AS degree for first 2 years of general education

# Differences Between HS & College

| High School                                                                          | College                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Law: <a href="#">IDEA</a> ; 504 subpart D; ADA                                       | Law: <a href="#">ADA</a> ; 504 subpart E; FHA                                                      |
| IDEA = <a href="#">Success</a>                                                       | ADA/504/FHA = <a href="#">Access</a>                                                               |
| Class / homework <a href="#">modifications for success</a>                           | <a href="#">No modification</a> of essential requirements                                          |
| <a href="#">Free &amp; Appropriate Education</a> = right to education in K12 setting | Selective admission: college not a “right”, must <a href="#">meet admission criteria</a>           |
| <a href="#">School district</a> must identify disability                             | <a href="#">Student</a> must self-identify to the college                                          |
| <a href="#">School district</a> develops IEP                                         | <a href="#">College works with student</a> to determine reasonable accommodations                  |
| <a href="#">School</a> completes free evaluation for disability                      | <a href="#">Student</a> provides documentation at own expense                                      |
| <a href="#">Parents and teachers</a> provide support                                 | <a href="#">College disability services office</a> is contact for student accommodations           |
| <a href="#">School</a> provides personal services (aide)                             | <a href="#">Student</a> responsible for hiring and managing any personal services or devices       |
| <a href="#">Parent</a> highly involved in IEP/504 process                            | <a href="#">FERPA privacy protections</a> – student, not parent, involved in accommodation process |



# Disability Laws: High School or College?

| High School                  | College                                |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| IDEA                         |                                        |
| ADA                          | <b>ADA</b>                             |
| Section 504 Subpart D        | <b>Section 504 Subpart E</b>           |
|                              | <b>Fair Housing Act</b>                |
| IEP                          | <b>Accommodation Plan</b>              |
| 504 Plans                    | <b>Letter of Accommodation</b>         |
|                              | <b>Approved Accommodations</b>         |
| FERPA (parental involvement) | <b>FERPA (no parental involvement)</b> |



# Disability?

Physical or mental impairment  
that substantially impacts one or  
more activities of daily living.



# Disability & Accessibility

| Disability                                                                                                     | ADLs                                                                                         | Accessibility /<br>Nondiscrimination                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more activities of daily living (ADLs)</p> | <p>Walking, talking, sitting, breathing, eating, learning, thinking, communication, etc.</p> | <p>In all programs, services, and activities of the college or postsecondary setting, including housing , student activities, campus events, campus recreation, dining, and classes</p> |

# Dispelling Myths

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| Situation / belief                                                                                                                                                                                 | True | False    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|----------|
| Students should be moved from an IEP to a 504 Plan for their senior year because it looks better when they apply to college.                                                                       |      | <b>X</b> |
| High school students should get off any kind of IEP or 504 Plan and stop using special education services because it will show on their transcript that is shared with college Admissions offices. |      | <b>X</b> |
| Students should disclose their disability when applying to college because there are 'quotas' and disclosure puts them at an advantage.                                                            |      | <b>X</b> |
| My student is going to complete a one-year ID/DD program, so he won't be able to attend college.                                                                                                   |      | <b>X</b> |
| A student completing Project Search is not eligible to attend college later.                                                                                                                       |      | <b>X</b> |

# Dispelling More Myths

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| Situation / belief                                                                                             | True | False    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|----------|
| My student's IEP lists a personal aide so the college has to provide an aide for my student.                   |      | <b>X</b> |
| The college must accept the high school IEP / 504 Plan accommodations for college classes.                     |      | <b>X</b> |
| The college staff will wake up my student because they don't respond to an alarm clock.                        |      | <b>X</b> |
| Colleges don't provide ASL interpreters or braille materials.                                                  |      | <b>X</b> |
| The college has to allow my student to have outbursts in class because it is part of his disability.           |      | <b>X</b> |
| The college DS staff will check in daily to see how they are doing and remind students of tests or papers due. |      | <b>X</b> |

# Dispelling Even More Myths



| Situation / belief                                                                                                                   | True | False    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|----------|
| College DS offices only work with students with physical or sensory disabilities.                                                    |      | <b>X</b> |
| Medical and Mental Health conditions are not accommodated at college because they are not disabilities.                              |      | <b>X</b> |
| College disability accommodations are only for classes.                                                                              |      | <b>X</b> |
| College faculty and staff are required to work with parents of students who have disabilities.                                       |      | <b>X</b> |
| If my student has a disability, they won't be able to get a student employment job or hold a student organization leadership office. |      | <b>X</b> |

# Examples of disabilities (not exhaustive):

LD / ADD / ADHD /  
Autism

Hearing / vision  
loss / speech  
disabilities

Chronic health  
conditions  
(diabetes, multiple  
sclerosis, epilepsy,  
POTS, etc.)

Mobility  
(amputee, paraplegia /  
quadriplegia)

Mental Health  
(depression, anxiety  
disorder, PTSD)

Cognitive /  
Neurological  
conditions  
(traumatic brain  
injury)



**What do you think are some of the things that students in postsecondary education & training have to do?**



# Examples of Accommodations (not exhaustive) – individually determined case-by-case:

## Test/Quiz

- Extended time on tests/quizzes
- Tests/quizzes read aloud
- Speech to text and text to speech software

## Housing

- Location / accessible room
- Dining accommodations

## Classroom

- Accessible textbooks
- Audio record lectures / notetaker
- Braille or large print materials
- JAWS / ZoomText / CCTV
- Sign language interpreter
- Captioning
- Assistive listening device
- Webpage accessibility
- Physical location / accessibility
- Modification of policies / procedures



# Temporary Conditions: What To Do?

Broken Arm? Leg?

Major Surgery?

Major Illness?

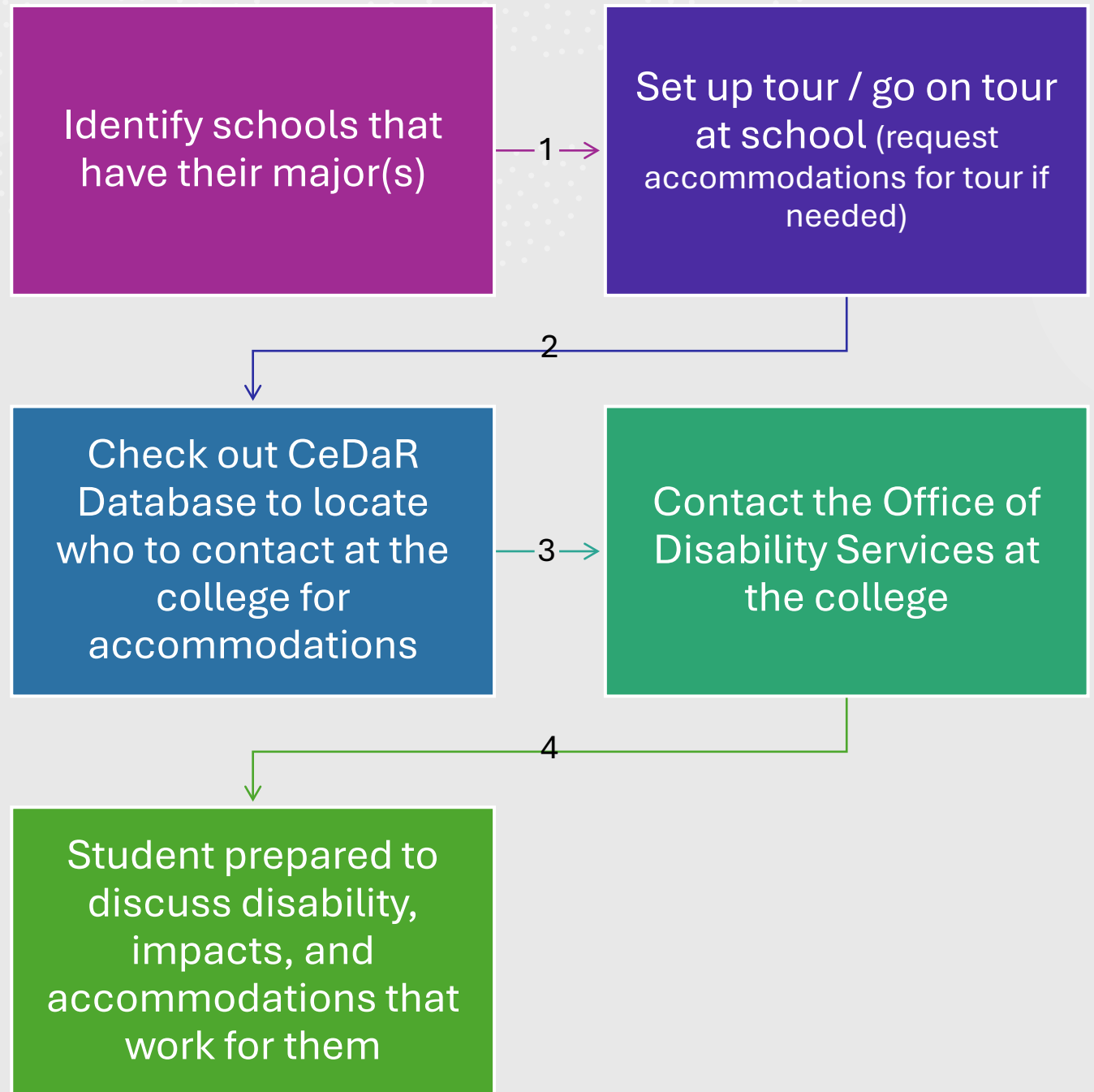
What to do?

- Check with the college DS office for possible temporary adjustments for class, tests, and housing.



**Where are you at in the process of your next steps for postsecondary education & training (Parents - where is your student at in this process)?**

# Best Advice for Students with Disabilities Looking at College...





# Issues with Accommodations? What To Do

- Teacher not providing approved accommodations?
- Encouraging you to not use your accommodations?
- Course materials changed and you need more access?

► **Contact the college disability services staff  
RIGHT AWAY!**

- Issues with the college disability services office?

**Follow campus Grievance Procedure (oftentimes  
contacting the campus ADA Coordinator)**

Can also file complaint with the U.S. Dept. of Education  
Office for Civil Rights (OCR): <https://www.ed.gov/laws-and-policy/civil-rights-laws/file-complaint>

Or check your state Human Rights / Civil Rights office  
(sometimes in the state Attorney General's office) to see if  
you can file at the state level.

# Quick Quiz....

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Check to see your  
knowledge about  
college and disability  
accommodations

Which do you **have to have in high school** in order to request accommodations in college?

IEP

504 Plan

Nothing

Both IEP and  
504 Plan



**Incorrect  
Answer**

[Try Again](#)

# Correct Answer

There is **no requirement for high school accommodations** in order for a student with disabilities to request accommodations in college. A person can acquire a disability at any time, thus a person can have documentation from a clinician and present that to the college disability services office to request accommodations.

[Next Question](#)

Which of the following might be an **available accommodation** in college?

Test  
accommodations  
like extra time and  
read aloud

Notetaking  
Accommodations

Housing  
Accommodations

All of the above

**Incorrect  
Answer**

[Try Again](#)

# Correct Answer

Colleges provide typical accommodations for disabilities such as **extra time on tests; reduced distraction; tests/quizzes read aloud; notetaking accommodations; and housing accommodations.**

Federal law does not require colleges to provide personal services or devices, such as hearing aids.

[Next Question](#)

Which of the following would **not** be considered an appropriate accommodation in college?

Reduced number  
of Test Questions

Reduced number  
of choices on MC  
questions (only  
A/B, not A, B, C,  
D, and E)

Reduced number  
of essay pages  
required

All of the above

**Incorrect  
Answer**

[Try Again](#)

# Correct Answer

Accommodations that **modify** the essential learning objectives are **not appropriate accommodations**.

Even the request to use notes or a formula sheet may be determined not appropriate at the college level due to the essential learning objectives of the class, the program, or the degree.

**Federal law does not require colleges to modify essential learning requirements.**

[Next Question](#)

# Who is responsible for submitting documentation of a disability to the college Disability Services office?

The college

Student's  
parents or  
guardians

Student's  
high school

Student  
themselves

**Incorrect  
Answer**

[Try Again](#)

# Correct Answer

At the college level, the **student** must provide the documentation of the disability.

The college may accept the high school IEP/504 Plan from the student, but the college can request additional documentation to see the connection between the functional limitations and any specific requested accommodation if it is not readily apparent.

[Next Question](#)

# Who is responsible for requesting and using accommodations at college?

The college

Student  
themselves

Student's  
high school

Student's  
parents or  
guardians

**Incorrect  
Answer**

[Try Again](#)

# Correct Answer

At the college level, the **student must initiate the request** for accommodations following the campus procedure – usually by contacting the college Disability Services office.

The student should also confirm with the professors the accommodations they plan to use in each class so everyone understands the process to use specific accommodations, like testing.

The student is now “in the driver’s seat” and if there is a problem or concern with a class, accessibility, or the accommodation, it is the **student’s responsibility to let the Disability Services office know of the concern** so the staff can work with the student and the professor to facilitate the necessary access.

# Resources

- **Job Accommodation Network (JAN)** – [www.askjan.org](http://www.askjan.org)
- **JAN listing of state VR offices** - [https://askjan.org/concerns/State-Vocational-Rehabilitation-Agencies.cfm?csSearch=6753895\\_1](https://askjan.org/concerns/State-Vocational-Rehabilitation-Agencies.cfm?csSearch=6753895_1)
- **Centers for Independent Living** (community orgs – peer support; information & referral; systems and individual advocacy; independent living skills training; transition to community life - <https://www.ilru.org/projects/cil-net/cil-center-and-association-directory>

# Two Free NCCSD Webinars This Fall



## 1. Assistive Technology Accommodations – **9/18/2025**

3:00 p.m. ET – 4:30 p.m. ET - Register in advance

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_iYWq5tH6T1mDNfXcHMSjNQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iYWq5tH6T1mDNfXcHMSjNQ)



## 2. Centers for Independent Living: A Resource for Postsecondary Students with Disabilities – **9/30/2025**

3:00 p.m. ET – 4:30 p.m. ET – register in advance

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_tyJ8rL4yTMaOrWgw2bqjwQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tyJ8rL4yTMaOrWgw2bqjwQ)

# NCCSD as a Resource

- The National Center for College Students with Disabilities (NCCSD)

Federally-funded center, for anyone, any disability, any type of postsecondary education and training



Training, Information, Resources & Technical Assistance

CeDaR Database – resources and disability-related information about degree-granting U.S. colleges and universities



NCCSD Clearinghouse – resources, tipsheets, information & publications

DREAM Student Group – by Disabled students, for Disabled students



# Questions?

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