

EDGE

Educate • Develop • Grow • Emanuel

COLLEGE & CAREER ACADEMY Transition Guide

**PREPARING STUDENTS TO ADVOCATE, ADAPT, AND
SUCCEED IN COLLEGE, CAREER, AND THE WORKFORCE.**



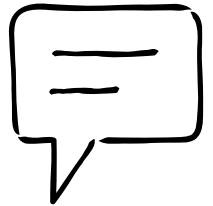
What Is Self-Advocacy?

Self-advocacy means understanding your strengths, challenges, and needs and being able to communicate them clearly so you can access support and succeed in school, college, and the workplace.



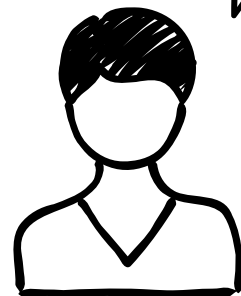
Why Self-Advocacy Matters

No one automatically knows what you need
Supports are not provided unless requested
Advocacy builds independence and confidence
Employers and colleges expect self-management



Key Skills

Knowing your learning needs
Asking for help appropriately
Communicating professionally
Following through on requests

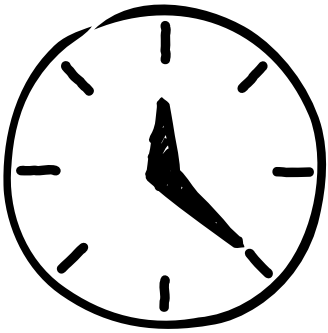


Understanding Accommodations

What Are Accommodations?

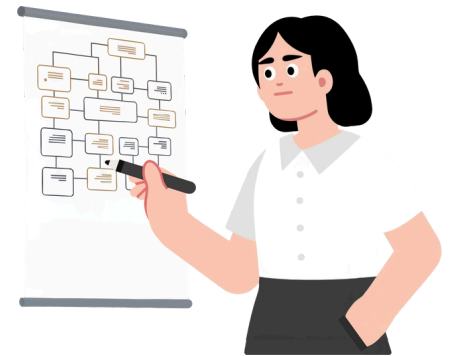
Accommodations are supports that help remove barriers so you can access learning or work without changing expectations or standards.

They help you demonstrate what you know — not give you an unfair advantage.



Common Types of Accommodations

Extended time
Note-taking assistance
Alternate formats (audio, large print)
Assistive technology
Quiet testing environments



Important Reminder

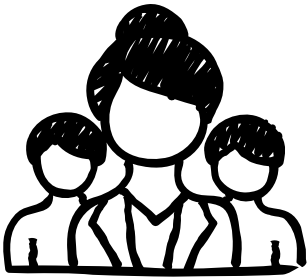
Accommodations are not automatic after high school or in dual enrollment
You must request and document them.



College vs. High School Expectations

In High School

IEP or 504 plan is developed for you
Teachers are notified automatically
Parents are involved in meetings
Case managers monitor accommodations



In College

No IEP or 504 plan transfers automatically
You must self-disclose
You initiate requests
Instructors are not notified unless you take action

What Changes?

Responsibility shifts from the school to the student.



Disability Disclosure & Your Rights

What Is Disclosure?

Disclosure means informing a college or employer that you have a disability and may need accommodations.



When Can You Disclose?

Before starting classes or work
After challenges arise
At any time — disclosure is your choice

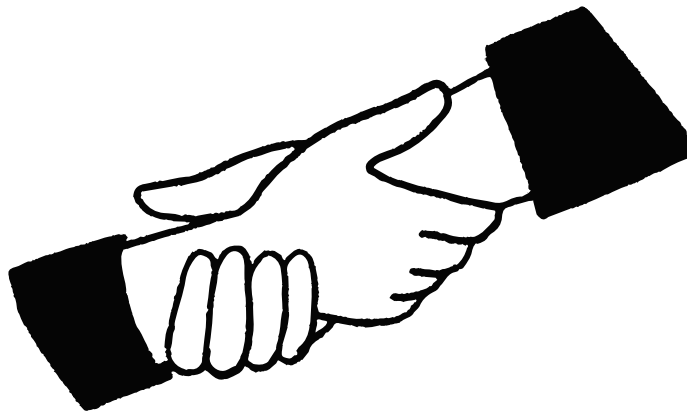
Your Rights

Protected under the ADA
Confidentiality must be maintained
No retaliation allowed
Reasonable accommodations required

HELP
NEEDED

Your Responsibility

You must be able to perform essential tasks with or without accommodations.



Time Management & Organization

Why This Matters

College and work environments require:

Fewer reminders
More independence
Strong planning skills

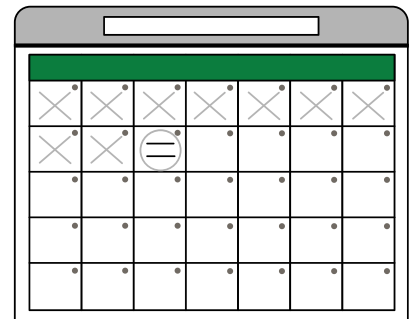


Key Strategies

Use a digital calendar
Break large tasks into steps
Set reminders for deadlines
Schedule study/work time

Helpful Tools

Google Calendar
Task apps
Paper planners
Weekly check-ins



Communication & Professional Skills

Professional Communication Includes:



- Email etiquette
- Respectful tone
- Clear requests
- Appropriate timing

Email Basics

- Use a subject line
- Greet the recipient
- Be clear and concise
- Proofread before sending



In-Person Communication

- Make eye contact
- Speak clearly
- Ask follow-up questions
- Advocate respectfully

Assistive Technology & Supports

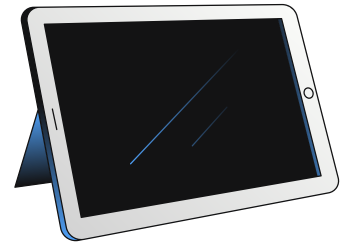
What Is Assistive Technology?

Tools that help you access information, complete tasks, or communicate more effectively.



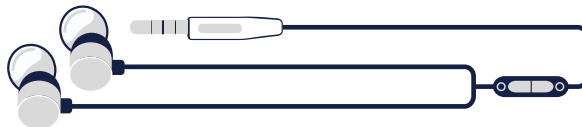
Examples

Speech-to-text
Text-to-speech
Smart pens
Audio recorders
Organization apps



Where to Access Support

College Disability Support Services
Student Success Centers
Employer HR departments



Workplace Readiness & Employment Transitions

Expectations in the Workplace

Independence
Accountability
Professional behavior
Time management



Workplace Accommodations May Include:

Modified schedules
Assistive technology
Written instructions
Quiet workspaces
Final Takeaway



Success in the workplace requires:

Self-awareness
Communication
Advocacy
Responsibility



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The EDGE Transition Key Message

You cannot receive supports you do not advocate for!

EDGE College & Career Academy prepares students to:

Understand their rights
Navigate college expectations
Communicate professionally
Transition successfully into the workforce



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TRANSITION SERVICES

EDUCATION. EMPLOYMENT. INDEPENDENCE.

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA)

The purpose of the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) is to help individuals with disabilities get and maintain employment.

Families and Students Need to Know...

GVRA services are free to eligible individuals and designed to support varying needs, from job placement to job readiness assistance or post-secondary training. *They may even pay for post-secondary education or training!*

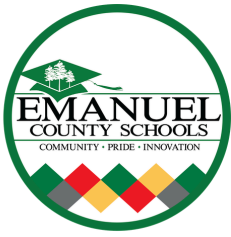
Eligibility for services is based on factors such as the individual's disability and its impact on their potential for employment.

GVRA provides benefits counseling to help individuals understand how income may impact benefits like Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid

Application for GVRA services is completed online at: <https://referral.gvs.ga.gov/>.

**Check spam folders after applying online.*

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TRANSITION SERVICES

EDUCATION. EMPLOYMENT. INDEPENDENCE.

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

Pre-ETS are group services designed to equip students with disabilities with the skills and knowledge to transition to post-secondary life successfully. These may be provided in the school setting or during school breaks.



The Bud McCall Grant

The Bud McCall Post-Secondary Vocational Rehabilitation Grant is a financial aid program specifically for GVRA clients seeking a college or university education to gain employment. The grant can cover expenses for up to five years and is paid after other financial aid sources like the Pell Grant or scholarships.



It can provide:

Tuition: up to \$7,395 per year

Maintenance (room, board, and meals): up to \$9,430 per year

Books: up to \$900 per year



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GVRA



Georgia Vocational
Rehabilitation Agency

Bud McCall Grant

for Students with Disabilities

Up to \$17,725 in Post-Secondary
Education Funding

- ✓ Tuition
- ✓ Room and Board
- ✓ Books

Contact Us!



(844) 367-4872



gvs.ga.gov



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Self-Advocacy Skills

What is Self-Advocacy?...

Your ability to speak up for yourself!

This includes communicating your needs and interests and asking for help when you need it.

What's the difference...

School

You are served under an IEP or 504 plan, as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). An annual meeting is held with you, your parent/guardian, and teachers to discuss goals/progress. You are assigned a case manager to ensure your teachers know what accommodations you need to be successful.

College

You must inform the school of your deficit(s) and needs, also known as self-disclosing. If you do not disclose, nobody will be aware of your needs, including the accommodations you need to be successful. You no longer have an IEP in place. You do not have a case manager.

Workforce

If you believe that you will need an accommodation to be successful in the workplace, it is your responsibility to disclose your disability to the employer. You may disclose at any time. You do not have to disclose upon being hired. You must be able to complete the essential functions of the job with or without reasonable accommodations. Your employer is expected to maintain your confidentiality and not disclose your disability or health condition.

Accommodations at College

Examples of Accommodations:

- Note taking
- Readers and/or scribes for exams
- Extended time for testing
- Accessible seating
- Recording of lectures
- Alternate format materials (i.e. audiobooks, braille, large print, etc.)
- Interpreters
- Disability parking stickers
- Assistive technology
- Flexibility in timeline for completion of program/course, certification and degree requirements
- Advanced distribution of syllabi, study guides, or other appropriate instructor-produced materials
- Reduced course load (i.e. completing 3/4 credit hours for full-time)



How to Access Accommodations at College:

1. Familiarize yourself with the Student Success Center, Disability Support Services, or similar office
2. Make an appointment with the corresponding office
3. Provide a copy of your most recent IEP or 504 plan from high school
4. Follow the directives provided, which may include having each instructor sign a form informing them of your accommodations.

You Cannot Receive Accommodations if You Do Not Advocate for them!

ACCOMMODATIONS AT WORK

There Is No “Right Time” to Disclose a Disability When, and if, you choose to disclose is up to you. You may choose to disclose:

- In a cover letter or application
- Before the interview
- During the interview
- After receiving a job offer
- Anytime while employed
- Or never

Considerations When Disclosing

- Choose a comfortable place to talk
- Allow enough time to answer questions
- Focus on abilities, not just limitations
- Weigh the pros and cons of disclosure

Preparation

Effective disclosure requires that you clearly explain your needs and provide practical suggestions for reasonable job accommodations. A helpful strategy is to practice the conversation with someone you trust, such as an EDGE instructor, counselor, or mentor.

Be prepared to:

- Share relevant information about your needs
- Highlight your strengths and skills

What to Disclose

There is no required information you must share about your disability. If you have a visible disability, it may be helpful to explain how you will complete essential job tasks. Demonstrating confidence and readiness can reassure employers that you are capable of performing the position.

If you choose to disclose, consider sharing:

- General information about your disability (as needed)
- The purpose or reason for disclosure
- How your disability affects specific job tasks
- Accommodations that have worked in the past
- Accommodations you may need in the workplace