

Differences Between High School and College

Disability Accommodations and Services

| HIGH SCHOOL | COLLEGE |
|---|---|
| The applicable law is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) | The applicable laws are the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Sections 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Fair Housing Act (residential living-dorms) |
| IDEA is about success | ADA/ADAAA and 504 are about access . |
| Fundamental modifications of programs and curricula are required | No fundamental modifications are required — only reasonable adjustments/supports |
| Education is a right and must be provided in an appropriate environment to all individuals | Education is not a right — students often must meet certain admission criteria |
| The school district is responsible for identifying a student's disability | Students must self-identify. |
| The school district develops Individualized Education Plans (IEP) to define special educational services | Students must identify needs and request services - no IEP exists and often is not considered sufficient documentation to verify a student's disability |
| The school district provides free evaluations | The student must obtain evaluations at his/her own expense |
| Student is supported by parents and teachers | Student is responsible for seeking assistance from the Disability Services office |
| Primary responsibility for arranging modifications belongs to the school | Primary responsibility for self-advocacy and arranging accommodations belongs to the student (who may seek assistance from Disability Services) |
| Personal services for medical and physical disabilities are required (i.e., Personal Care Attendant) | No personal services are required — however, the Disability Services office may assist the student in arranging for such services |
| Parent has access to student records and can participate in the IEP process | Parent does not have access to any student records without student's written consent |
| Parent advocates for student | Student must advocate for self |



DREAM (Disability Rights, Education, Activism, and Mentoring) Student Group – online and at some college campuses – support and networking with other college students with disabilities – technical assistance for questions you might have.

Website: <https://www.dreamcollegedisability.org/>

Contact Us: <https://www.dreamcollegedisability.org/>

DREAM Listserv: <https://ahead-listserve.org/mailman/listinfo/dream>