

# There is No “Resource Room” in College: Accommodations in High School vs College

## High School Accommodations

K-12 schools follow the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, 2004), Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), and Americans with Disability Act (Amended 2008).



IDEA allows children with disabilities free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment and independent living.



K-12 schools provide special education services to assure a student’s success and are responsible for helping students succeed.



The Individual Education Plan (IEP) or a 504 Plan guides all accommodations. These plans involve parents, students and school staff. The student’s participation in the planning is optional.



All children in the United States are guaranteed the right to attend K-12 school.



K-12 schools are responsible for testing a student’s disability.



In K-12 schools, the school district provides testing, physical therapy, speech therapy, and personal care.



## College Accommodations

Colleges follow the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), and the Americans with Disability Act (Amended 2008).

Equal access to education is a key principle in higher education. Students have civil rights and must advocate for themselves in order to enjoy those rights. Disclosure of a student’s disability is always voluntary; but a pre-requisite for receiving accommodations.

Colleges are required to provide reasonable accommodations, but do not change class requirements. Students are responsible for their own success.

Parents are not involved in the educational process without the student’s permission. When a student turns 18 or attends college they are legally responsible for themselves per the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

To go to college, students must meet all entrance and academic requirements with or without accommodations.

Students provide their own documentation. An IEP is helpful but by itself may not be enough to receive accommodations at the college level. Typically documentation includes educational, psychological or medical records.

In college the student arranges and pays for any personal services, just as if they were living on their own and not attending school. Colleges do not provide personal aides, private tutors and other remedial special education services.