Postsecondary Education For A Child with A Disability

Parent Guide

Disabilities Services Comparison

The chart below shows how disability laws, rights and services change with the transition from high school to a postsecondary institution.

High School		Postsecondary Institution
Student records are accessible to the student and his/her parents.	◄►	Student records are accessible only to the student (unless student signs a release).
Educational and psychological testing are provided by district.	◄►	Student is responsible for providing current documentation of disability to the school.
Annual Individualized Education Program is available.	◄►	There are no IEPs in postsecondary education.
Student entitled to services identified on his/her IEP.	◄►	Student must initiate request for needed accommodations
School makes regular parent contact.	◄►	No parent contact is made.
Special education classes are available.	◄►	No special education classes are available.
Modifications and accommodations are permitted for student to find academic success.	◄►	Accommodations that do not alter the fundamental nature of the course or impose undue burden on the institution are permitted.

*Chart compares services at high school to services at the postsecondary level.

career tech
Career and Academic Connections

Points to Remember about Postsecondary Education

- Your child will have to self disclose his/her disability if he/she wants to receive accommodations.
- A free appropriate public education no longer applies. Some institutions/programs/career majors are competitive, and not all students are accepted.
- There are no individualized education programs.
- Your child will be responsible for his/her academic success.
- If your child meets the essential requirements for admission, a postsecondary school cannot deny your child admission simply because he/she has a disability.

Questions to Ask Yourself

- How well does my child understand his/her disability?
- Does my child know his/her strengths and weaknesses?
- Can my child verbally express what accommodations he/she needs?

Questions to Ask Postsecondary School

- Who is the disability contact on campus?
- What disability documentation does the school need for my child to receive accommodations?
- What resources are available on campus (writing centers, academic centers, medical clinic, transit services, etc.)?

Planning Ahead for Changes and Challenges

- **Change in environment -** Your child will not only change physical locations but will also change time structures and will need to learn new routines.
- **Self Advocacy -** Your child will need to know how to advocate for what he/she needs.
- **Self Discloser -** If your child needs accommodations, he/she will need to self disclose his/her disability and seek out services.
- **Support -** Academic support methods will change. Your child will no longer be provided with modifications (he/she was in high school). Make sure your child understands this and is prepared for this change.
- **Find Area Support -** Think ahead about what supports your child might need (transportation, equipment repair, personal assistant, etc).

What is the difference between accommodations and modifications?

Accommodations – An accommodation does not alter what the student is expected to learn. An accommodation makes learning accessible to the student and allows the student to demonstrate what he/she knows. Examples: Extended time, tests in separate location, preferential seating, adaptive furniture, large print texts.

Modifications – A modification does alter content knowledge expectations. Examples: Limit the number of distracters on test items, simplify wording on assignments and tests, lowered performance expectations related to educational standards.

Success Tips

- Beginning when your child is young, talk to your child about the importance of postsecondary school.
- Work with your child's IEP team to create a good transition plan that consists of activities that will help prepare your child for postsecondary education.
- Make sure your child has current testing information that a postsecondary institution may need. If current testing does not exist, encourage the IEP team to conduct updated testing before your child graduates from high school.
- Take your child to visit a few colleges.
- Have your child practice disclosing his/her disability and asking for needed accommodations.
- Request accommodations for your child on the ACT or SAT exams (if needed). Your local school counselor or special education teacher can help you with this.

For more assistance and information regarding postsecondary education for students with disabilities, contact the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education disabilities services specialist at 405-743-5596.

career tech

Career and Academic Connections

Contact us at 405.743.5596

Follow us:
CAC website - www.okcareer.tech/cac

Twitter - @TommiLeach

Facebook - CAC

Pinterest - ODCTECAC

OKCareerGuide.org

The Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex/gender, age, disability, or veteran status. Inquiries concerning application of this policy may be referred to ODCTE, Compliance Coordinator, 1500 West Seventh Avenue, Stillwater, OK 74074-4364, 1-800-522-5810 or (405) 377-2000.

This publication is printed and issued by the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education as authorized by 70 O.S. 1981, Sec. 14-104, as amended. 250 copies have been prepared and distributed at a cost of $221.47. Copies have been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. 19-38596 17940