

# THE TRANSITION FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

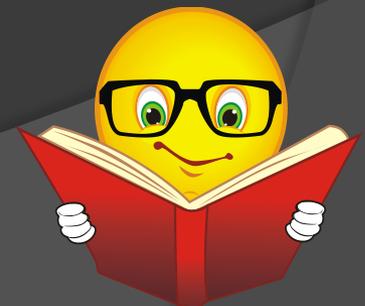
*INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS*

The college planning process can seem daunting. However, if you take it step by step and remember that you are not in it alone it is manageable.



Just remember to follow a few steps in the process:

- 1- identify and work with the key people in your school:
- Guidance Counselor
- School Psychologist
- Teachers
- Coaches/Club Advisors
- The most important person - YOU



You will work together with your parents, guidance counselor and school psychologist to determine which type of college would be a good fit for you:

- Small, medium, large school
- City vs. rural campus
- Limited, moderate, intensive support
- Athletic, art, theater programs
- Local vs. Away, Commute vs. Dorming

Your guidance counselor will help you with the application and your college essay. Your teachers, coaches and club advisors are the people that you will be asking to write college recommendations. ***Make sure to provide them with a stamped self-addressed envelope. It is considered courteous to do so.***

To disclose or not to disclose: That is the question.

Students are not required to disclose to colleges that they have a disability.

High Schools are not allowed to disclose that a student has a disability.

Colleges are not allowed to ask if a student has a disability.

Colleges are not required to provide accommodations to students.

**Remember they are governed by the ADA.** If you decide that you need accommodations to be successful in college, you must apply for them through the Office of Disabilities. This is separate from your application to the college itself.

To apply for accommodations you will need to contact the Office of Disabilities for an application and find out the procedure. In almost all cases you will need:

- ⦿ A copy of your last IEP from your Exit meeting
- ⦿ A recent psychological evaluation including a full cognitive battery
- ⦿ A recent achievement evaluation
- ⦿ Sometimes a recent letter of diagnosis for ADD/ADHD from a medical doctor

# ACCES

New York State Education Department, Office of Adult and Career & Continuing Educational Services

All graduating seniors that are classified or have 504 Plans will be invited to meet with a ACCES counselor. ACCES can assist with the following if eligible:

## **Students must have a documented disability to be found eligible**

- Identify services and resources to assist you and your child with his/her transition from high school.
- Plan for a career.
- Work with colleges or employers to make sure the student receives accommodations when needed.
- Provide vocational assessments that will help the student understand jobs that match their abilities, interests and needs.
- Financial assistance towards tuition, room & board and books (based on economic need).
- Provide driver training.
- Find employment after graduation.

Some common information that every post high school program and Office of Disability will want students to be able to articulate about themselves:

- Describe your disability as best you can in your own words.
- As you understand it, what is your special education program?
- What are your accommodations?
- Why do you need these? / How do these help you?
- What are the things that you do best in/out of the classroom?
- What are the things that are hard for you in/out of the classroom?

The next phase of your life is an exciting time. While it can be intimidating, remember what we said in the beginning:

- You are not in it alone.
- It is manageable.
- We are here to help you.

