
What you should
Know
about the
Differences

Between
High School
And College
For Students
With Disabilities

Northern Maine Community College

Legal Differences

High School	College
Services are provided under IDEA or Section 504 Subpart D.	Services are provided under ADA/ADAAA and Section 504, Subpart E.
The IEP is mandated and followed.	The high school IEP ends, and there is no IEP at the college level.
Parents are actively involved in planning and decisions.	Students are considered adults and must advocate for themselves. Parent involvement should cease.
Accommodations are provided to <i>ensure the success</i> of the student.	Accommodations are provided to <i>ensure equal access</i> . Success is the responsibility of the student.
School districts are responsible for identifying and evaluating disability at no cost to the student or family.	The student must self-identify and provide appropriate and current documentation based on college requirements. The college is not responsible for the payment of evaluation.
Parents sign documents for students	Students sign all documents.
High school personnel talk freely with parents.	FERPA requires that students give written permission for personnel to talk to parents.

Academic Differences

High School	College
School personnel have the responsibility to try to modify inappropriate behavior caused by disability into appropriate behavior.	Students are responsible for their own behavior and inappropriate behavior is not tolerated.
Tests are often modified or shortened, or questions are modified.	Students are expected to take the same tests as all other students.
Shortened or modified assignments are given.	Students are expected to do the same work as all other students.
Teachers are asked to adapt their teaching mode to the student.	Faculty have academic freedom in delivery, course content, requirements and methods of evaluation.
Accommodations are given for all subjects and do not have to be supported by diagnostic evaluation.	Student may only receive accommodations in the area of the disability as supported by diagnostic evaluation.
Students are scheduled to see resource personnel on a regular basis or can come the resource room on a drop-in basis.	Students must self-identify and initiate requests for services.
Students' study is directed by special education teachers.	Students must have skills to organize, plan and study independently. Tutoring and academic supports are available
Special educators inform instructors about a student's accommodation needs.	Students talk to their instructors about accommodation needs.

Other Differences

High School	College
Transportation is provided	Transportation and mobility on campus are the responsibility of the student.
Often paraprofessionals are provided if a student needs personal care or behavioral management.	The college is not responsible for providing personal care or behavioral management assistance.
Adaptive technology is available.	Students are expected to use available adaptive technology.

For more information, contact:

Tammy Nelson
 Director of Counseling/Student Support Services
 Northern Maine Community College
 33 Edgemont Drive
 Presque Isle, Maine 04769

Voice: (207)768-2747
 Fax: (207)760-1106
 E-Mail: tnelson@nmcc.edu



Northern Maine Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information, please call 768-2791.