



Bridging the Gap: Transition Services for Students with Disabilities

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Overview

1. Introduction
2. Define differences in laws between secondary & post-secondary
3. Why are transition services important
4. Barriers to successful transition
5. Examples of ways to alleviate barriers

short-term
students strategies student goals
Support.Career personal campus improved
dedicated Time program address comprehensive
De-stressing crisis
Anxiety College Support persons
organization veteran Distractions
intensive Technical Styles Populations professional
include several area success includes Education
career resources achieving skills Project
Study
offers KCC
Art helping verified
assist events TRI0
Affairs Carl need develop longer
focus Interest Please improve Stress
provide Exhibit needed needs attending
November each retention educational referral
graduation Strengths supports designed including
funded Developing assistance more Test
available programs regarding college-wide
Assessment tutoring Management
accommodations opportunities ensuring
referrals.Tutoring initiatives Department



Who are you?

Federal Mandates

- **The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**
 - Law **ensuring services** to children with disabilities (K-12+)
 - Governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education and related services
- **The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA)**
 - Civil rights law protecting individuals with disabilities from discrimination in the workplace, as well as school and other settings.
 - ADA originally passed in 1990
 - ADAAA mandates **reasonable accommodations** must be provided to students with disabilities who meet the requirements
 - Modeled after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Federal Mandates

- **The Rehabilitation Act, 1973 (Section 504)**
 - Law **prohibiting discrimination** on the basis of disability
 - “No qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall be excluded from, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination...”
- **Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) 2015**
 - Purpose of WIOA is to better align the workforce system with education and economic development
 - 15% of federal funding is allocated to provide **transition** services to all students with disabilities
 - Information & Referral, Advocacy, Peer Support, Independent Living, and Training & Transition

Why are transition services important?

- 5.7 million students in special education
- 11% in college report a disability
- 24% in college do not self disclose
- 42% with a disability complete undergraduate degrees
- Lower levels of education = higher unemployment

Source: U.S. Department of Education (2015), Digest of Education Statistics. Washington, DC

Understanding the transition

- Entitlement (K-12+)
 - **Breadth of services**
 - School responsible to find, assess and remediate
 - Focus on special education and preparation for future
 - School plans 'success' of student
- Civil Rights (Post-secondary)
 - **Accessibility**
 - Student responsible to initiate process
 - Focus on equal opportunity, eligibility, access
 - Student plans for own 'success'

Understanding the transition

Dispelling the myths...

- Special education services do not exist post-secondary
- Special education services/504 plans do not “carry over”
- Documentation is not automatically sent by K-12+
- Exams and courses are not modified based on K-12+ services

Barriers to Success

- Where do I go?
- What can I receive?
- What do I need?
- I don't like asking for help?
- Who do I talk to?
- I don't want to be different?
- I'm going to try it on my own first.
- My mom always handles this.
- I don't know what I need?
- I don't know what my disability is?
- I don't have documentation to support my need?

Self-Advocacy in Transition

- **Student must**

- Self identify
- Request accommodations
- Provide documentation support for request
- Understand characteristics and impact of disability
- Communicate past effective accommodations
- Contact college/university staff as necessary
- Engage in problem-solving
- Speak to professors
- Seek guidance and assistance from appropriate resources

Source: Adam Meyer

Relationships Overcome Barriers

- **K-12+ Relationships**

- Individual Education Plan meetings
- Special education and regular education trainings
- Parent and student presentations

Relationships Overcome Barriers

- **Community Organizational Relationships**
 - Calhoun County Transition Council
 - Community Mental Health
 - Disability Network

Relationships Overcome Barriers

- **State & Organizational Relationships**
 - Michigan Rehabilitation Services
 - Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons
 - Professional Organizations: MOSPA, MI-Ahead, etc.



What relationships have
you developed?



Kellogg Community College Academic Success Guide

http://www.kellogg.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/AcademicSuccessGuide_fields.pdf



Final Thoughts

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