



Finding a Good Learning Style Match: Post Secondary Planning for Students with Disabilities

Presenters:

Laurelle Mathison, School Counselor

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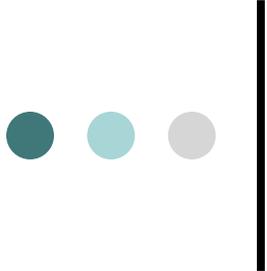
Tonight's Agenda:

- Post-Secondary Options for Students with Disabilities
- Legal Differences Between High School & College
- The Continuum of Services Available at Colleges & Universities
- Finding the Right Fit: The College Search
- College Entrance Testing and Accommodations
- To Disclose or Not to Disclose a Disability
- Transitioning from HS to College: Self Determination
- Questions?



Post-Secondary Options:

- Four year college or university
- Two year college (private or community college)
- Learning Disability College
- Schools or Programs w/Specialized Focus
- Post graduate year at a Prep School
- Gap Year
- Employment



How is College Different from High School?

Legal Aspects

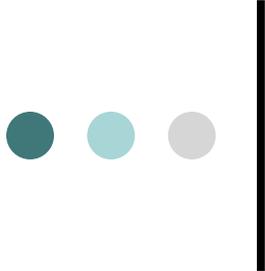
(Adapted from Colby-Sawyer College, Learning Services)

Public High School

- IDEA & Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
- Ensures entitlement to all a student can learn
- **School** responsible for identifying students with disabilities and ensuring equal and appropriate educational services for them.
- **School** provides free testing and assessments
- IEP or 504 Plan – implemented by staff
- Parents in charge of educational decisions for students

College/University

- Section 504 & Americans w/ Disabilities Act (ADA) Education not a right. Student must be otherwise qualified for admission to the college and particular program
- Ensures access and non-discrimination
- **Student** is responsible for disclosing disability to disabilities office and requesting accommodations
- **Student** provides documentation of disability at his/her expense (not the high school's or college's)
- No specific learning plan
- Student is responsible for his/her educational decisions



How is College Different from High School?

Legal Aspects, continued...

(Adapted from Colby-Sawyer College, Learning Services)

PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

- Instruction designed to meet student's needs.
- Curriculum, materials, program requirements may be modified, based on student's disability and performance
- IEP students have a case manager
- Specialized instruction is provided, as needed
- Personal services provided (i.e., for medical disabilities)

College/University

- Curricula not altered or modified
- Once disability is documented and qualified, college only responsible for reasonable and appropriate accommodations
- Colleges do not have to waive or modify coursework or program requirements
- Students do not have individual case managers
- Tutorial assistance not required
- Personal services not provided by the college



Continuum of Services at Colleges & Universities

Minimal Federal Compliance

- ADA Coordinator
- Basic Accommodations only (e.g., extended time)
- No additional cost

Coordinated Services

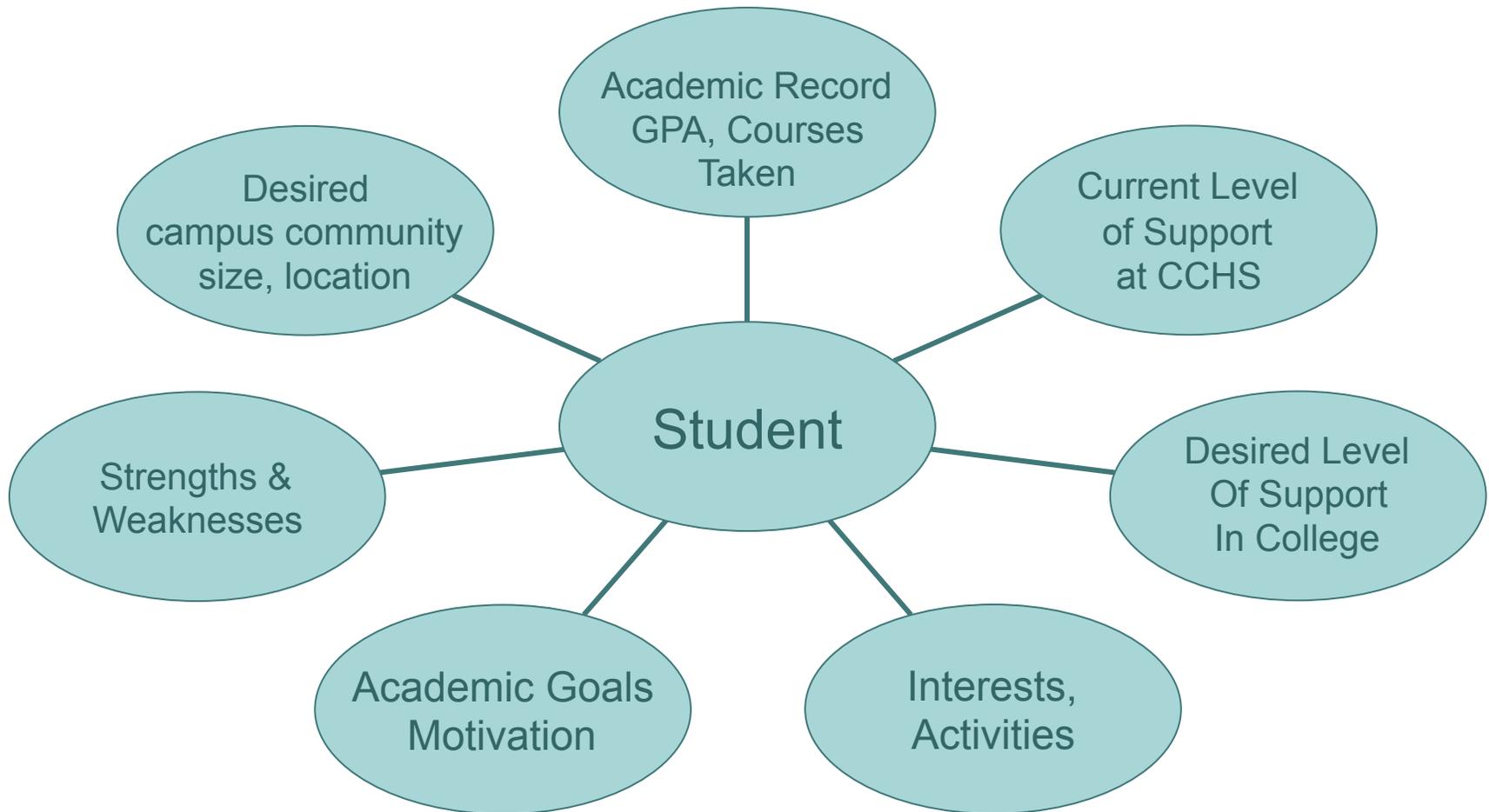
- Disabilities Services Office
- Accommodations PLUS Tutorials, advocacy training, etc
- Services – drop-in or on request
- No additional cost

Comprehensive Program

- Special Advisor
- Specialized services and courses
- Separate admissions process
- Additional Cost for Program



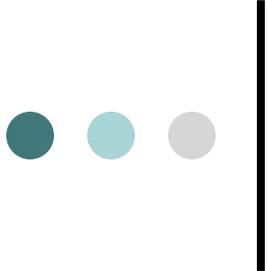
Finding the Right Fit: The College Search





Preparing for the College Search

- Take as many college prep, mainstream classes as possible
- Learn to articulate your strengths and weaknesses
- Practice self-advocacy
- Use Naviance/Family Connection
- Visit College Campuses, including the Office of Disability Services
- Check on-line resources for LD/ADHD students
- Meet w/your counselor and case manager



College Entrance Testing & Accommodations

Students with a documented disability may request accommodations for their college entrance exams (e.g., extra time, large type testing booklet, testing over multiple days, alternative format, etc.)

Eligibility for accommodations is determined by the testing service, not the school. Possession of a 504 plan or IEP does not guarantee eligibility for accommodations on college entrance exams.

Contact for this process: Laurelle Mathison,
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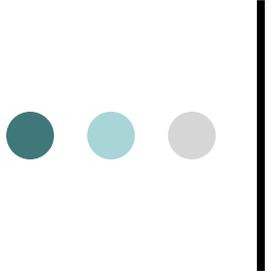
College Entrance Testing & Accommodations, continued

There are two major testing services in the US:

- College Board (PSAT, SAT, SAT Subj. Tests, AP)
- ACT Inc. (ACT, ACT with writing)

The process for requesting accommodations is different for each testing service.

Students should talk with their counselor or case manager about which tests to take, and whether accommodations (e.g., extra time) would be beneficial.



To Disclose or Not to Disclose a Disability...

At the time of application...

...is completely up to the student, *unless* s/he is applying to a comprehensive LD/ADHD program, where disability documentation will be required as part of the process.

However, it can be very helpful for families to contact the Disabilities Services office during the college search to learn more about what accommodations, resources, supports are available to insure the school has what the student will need to be successful.

Students should talk with their counselor about what strategy makes the most sense for them.



To Disclose or Not to Disclose a Disability...

After acceptance...

...is required for students, who plan to access accommodations at the college.

However, if a student does not intend to request accommodations in college, then disclosure of the disability is not required or necessary.



Transitioning from HS to College: Self Determination

Understand one's disability

Know one's strengths & weaknesses

Learn to succeed despite the impact of the disability

Set goals & determine how others can help one achieve them

Develop/possess problem solving skills

Develop/possess self-management skills



Questions?

Thank you for coming tonight!

Enjoy the rest of your evening!