

Services in K-12 vs. Higher Education:

What are the Differences?

	K-12	Higher Education
Special Education	Yes for students who qualify	Special Education is not available for students once they graduate from high school
Individualized Education Program (IEP)	Yes meetings are held each year	No, once students graduate from high school they no longer have an IEP
Evaluation	District is responsible for conducting 3-year review evaluations and covering the cost	Students are responsible for seeking an evaluation and for covering the cost
1:1 Aide	IEP team determines if this is necessary	Not available as the ADA states this is a “personal assistant”; students and family would hire their own individual
Modified curriculum and /or self-contained classroom	IEP team determines students are able to participate in general education curriculum and if not the curriculum is modified or a different curriculum is used	Modifications are not allowed because it fundamentally changes the course and the competencies students must use the same text books , materials, and must complete the same requirements as all students
Parental contact	Communication is encouraged and is required for the development of the IEP as well as the annual review	Students must sign consent for the college faculty / staff to speak to anyone but the student ;only done via USPS or in person with a photo ID
Test reader	May have someone read the test and define words or “re-word” the question so students can better understand	Will read the test word for word may not define words or assist in any other way
Transport and/or specialized transport	Provided and paid for by the school district	Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation as well as paying for the service
Assistive technology	School district provides it to the students at no cost; students may borrow items until they graduate	Some items are available for use on campus; other items students may borrow on a first-come, first served basis or students purchases on their own

	K-12	Higher education
Responsibility	Parents & teachers assist students and remind students of what needs to get done	Students are responsible for getting things done and for requesting assistance as needed
Collaboration	Parents, teachers, and students all work together to ensure that the student is progressing, needs are being met, accommodations are being made, etc.	Students work with their instructors and the Disability Service Office to implement accommodations: Students are responsible for meeting with their instructors to give them the necessary paper work
Receiving services for a disability	Students are staffed into the special education if needed or a 504 plan is developed	Students must apply for services and must also submit proof of their disability to support their request and to be identified as a person who is eligible for service
Success	Many professionals collaborate with students and parents to ensure that students are successful	Success is not guaranteed; the ADA ensures that students with disabilities have equal access in college and that they are provided with the same opportunities
Textbooks	If indeed, alternate reading materials are to be used based on the students grade level	All Text books are college-level reading materials; caned textbooks are available for students who qualify
Documentation	The district evaluates the; student they do not necessarily need to provide the school with any paper work, although some parents may have information to share	Students are responsible for providing the institution with that information; may be a 504 plan but these cannot be “transferred” to the college; they are used to determine the history of services and what items in the document may be provided in college
Contact person	Students typically have one person at the school as a “main contact” for parents (i.e. IEP teacher)	Students may have several individuals they work with including the Disability services staff , academic advisers, councilors , instructors, etc.
Make-Up Exams and Re-Takes	Some students may have this available to them as part of their IEP	Instructors get to determine if they will allow make-up exams and there are no retakes for students who Fail the exam or who do not use their accommodations

((Information for document furnished by DMAACC; Reformatted and printed by NICC Disability Services Offices))

Any questions please contact the Office of Disability Services,

For Peosta contact Scott Steadman at steadmansc@nicc.edu, or 563-556-7560, ext 280 or

For Calmar contact Anna Stamat at stamata@nicc.edu, or 563-562-3263, ext 258