

# College: Students with Learning Disabilities

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

Students with special needs may have additional considerations when applying to colleges. Students with learning and/or physical disabilities, should discuss college options with their guidance counselor.

Students with learning disabilities, who will choose to continue their formal education beyond high school, **need to take a variety of preparatory steps to get ready for college while in high school.** In addition, students need to make real choices regarding their goals after high school well before their senior year to maximize their options.

Students will need to decide if they are going to disclose their special needs to the college, particularly if the student is going to be applying for accommodations while enrolled in college. There are at least three kinds of situations where the student will want to consider some options with his/her counselor:

- The student has moved through high school with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and he/she wants to communicate his/her special need to colleges with this plan.
- The student has a Section 504 Accommodation Plan and wants to have the same accommodation in college as provided previously.
- The student has a disability which has been diagnosed privately and not handled by the school and which will require some accommodations at the college.

It is up to the student and his/her family to disclose any special needs to colleges. Nowhere on the student transcript or other documentation from the school is there indication of special accommodations. We will not share a student's disability with a college. It is the responsibility of the family and student to decide if doing so is warranted.

### FACTS ABOUT COLLEGE RELATED TO LEARNING DISABILITIES

- The student is responsible for making his/her disability known.
- Colleges CANNOT discriminate on the basis of a disability.
- Colleges are NOT required to alter technical standards.
- Colleges are NOT required to have disability specialists on staff.
- Academic adjustments must be made on an individual basis.
- Adjustments may include testing accommodations, reduced course load, extending the time period to complete requirements, and course substitutions.
- Auxiliary aids may include taped texts, tape recorders, and use of computers.

Each college is different. Their mission, purposes, entrance criteria, programs of study, and degrees may vary. For more information please visit the SEPTA website, Harrison Special Education PTA at:  
<http://www.harrisonptacouncil.org/SpecEd.html>

It is also important to contact the college to determine what they want and/or need.

### Colleges that Serve Students with Special Needs: Naviance Search

There are several two and four-year colleges that specialize in learning-disabled programs. Naviance has a search function specific to this need. Please speak with your guidance counselor for assistance.

### SPECIAL TESTING: ACCOMMODATIONS ON THE SAT/ACT

Students with IEP's or 504 Plans should contact the Guidance Office for assistance in applying for accommodations on all SAT, ACT, SAT II tests. Accommodations may be available, but are contingent upon College Board and/or ACT approval—not HCSD.

Please call 630-3345 and/or speak with your guidance counselor.

Parents will be mailed the appropriate paperwork during sophomore year.