



Kentucky Assistive Technology Service (KATS) Network 1-800-327-5287

Fact Sheet 12 – Postsecondary Education & Individuals with Disabilities

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team consider post-school goals when the student is about to enter high school at about age 14. Beginning at age 16 (or younger, if appropriate) a statement of transition services needed by the student must be included in the IEP.

High school experiences, both academic and social, greatly influence future options for all students. For adolescents with disabilities, these experiences are pivotal. Transition plans should be grounded in the student's goals and vision for life as an adult, career interests, extracurricular and community activities, and the skills the student needs to progress toward his or her goals. Planning should include preparation for proficiency tests and other assessments needed for postsecondary academic work (e.g., SATs), as well as the development of self-determination and self-advocacy skills.

Colleges require documentation of a disability (i.e., results of tests indicating the presence of a disability) in order to provide support services; having an IEP or Section 504 plan in high school is not enough documentation to obtain services from colleges. Students entering postsecondary programs will need to present current assessment data in order to receive accommodations at college. Even for students who have struggled academically in high school, postsecondary education may very well be a possibility.

Students who wonder whether college is a realistic option can explore summer pre-college courses for high school students who have completed their junior or senior year. Alternatively, students can take a college course the summer before they enroll to get to know the campus, learn how to use the library, and sharpen their study strategies and time management skills. The following websites listed below are designed to help in the process of going to college.

Statewide Resources

- **Office for the Blind** at blind.ky.gov/
- **Office of Vocational Rehabilitation** at ovr.ky.gov
- **Engaging Differences Project through the University of Kentucky** at www.uky.edu/TLC/grants/uk_ed/accessintro.html
- **Governors ADA Taskforce on Postsecondary Education** at ada.state.ky.us/post_sec_websites.htm#Postsecondary%20ADA%20Coordinators
- **KY Council on Postsecondary Education** at www.cpe.state.ky.us/keyind/www/going2/going2_state_supported_institutions.asp
- **KY Higher Education Assistance Authority** at www.kheaa.com/
- **KY Virtual University** at www.kyvu.org/
- **Workforce Development Cabinet** at workforce.ky.gov/

National Resources

- **AHEAD, Association on Higher Education And Disability** at www.ahead.org
- **Education Resources Directory (ERD)** at www.ed.gov/
- **ERIC, Education Resources Information Center Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education** at ericec.org/
- **Equal Access to Software and Information** at www.rit.edu/~easi
- **HEATH Resource Papers** at www.heath.gwu.edu/
- **Job Accommodation Network** at janweb.icdi.wvu.edu/
- **LD Online** at www.ldonline.org
- **Learning Disabilities Association of America** at www.lidaamerica.org
- **National Clearinghouse of Rehabilitation Training Materials** at nctrm.org/
- **NCLD, National Center for Learning Disabilities** at www.nclد.org
- **NICHCY, National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities** at nichcy.org
 - **DBatLink, The National Clearinghouse on Children Who Are Deafblind** at www.tr.wou.edu/dblink/

- Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>
- National Clearinghouse on Postsecondary Education for Individuals with Disabilities at www.heath.gwu.edu/

Articles of Interest

- Tips for Transitioning to College for students with AD/HD at www.add.org/articles/tiptrans.html
- PACER Center at ADA Q & A: Section 504 & Postsecondary Education at www.pacer.org/pride/504.htm
- Teaching College Students with Disabilities at www.udel.edu/cte/disabilities.htm
- Wrights Law – Students with Disabilities Preparing for postsecondary Education: Know your Rights and Responsibilities at www.wrightslaw.com/info/sec504.transition.ocr.pdf

Selected Assistive Technology Resources

- Ability Hub: Assistive Technology Solutions at www.abilityhub.com/index.htm
- Alliance for Technology Access at www.ataccess.org
- Assistivetechology.net at www.assistivetech.net
- Assistive Technology Solution at www.atsolutions.org
- Closing the Gap at www.closingthegap.com
- Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetwork, and Technology DO IT at www.washington.edu/doiit
- Equal Access to Software and Information at www.rit.edu/~easi
- Kentucky Assistive Technology Service Network at www.katsnet.org
- Microsoft Enable at www.microsoft.com/enable
- National Rehabilitation Information Center at www.naric.com
- RehabTool.com at www.rehabtool.com
- RESNA at www.resna.org
- Trace Center at www.trace.wisc.edu

