



# Disability Services in High School and College

Kathy Young

Resources for Students With Learning Differences

# Laws and Documentation

## High School

- o I.D.E.A. (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
- o Documentation determines whether a student is eligible for services based on specific disability categories
- o I.D.E.A. is about *SUCCESS*
- o Student is identified by the school and support is given by teachers

## College

- o A.D.A. (Americans with Disabilities Education Act)
- o Documentation outlines functional limitations and demonstrates the need for accommodations
- o A.D.A. is about *ACCESS*
- o Students must share documentation about their disability to the Disability Services office and apply for accommodations

# Accommodations and Modifications

## High School

- o Credit classes may have modified curriculum
- o Teachers may modify assignments
- o Assignment deadlines may be altered
- o Test format changes are given
- o Students may retake exams
- o The school conducts evaluations. Meetings are held with parents. IEP's are created which specify the support and accommodations that teachers should provide annually.
- o Teachers are given information about the disabilities of the students in their classes.

## College

- o College credit courses do not have modified curriculum
- o No modification of assignments
- o Assignment deadlines are not altered
- o Test format changes are not available
- o Students cannot retake exams
- o After students register with the Disability Office, they must self-identify with instructors each semester to receive accommodations.
- o Instructors are not informed about the specific disabilities. They only know which accommodations their students require.

# INSTRUCTION

## High School

- o 7-8 hours of class daily
- o 10-12 tests a semester
- o 1-2 chapters per test
- o Teachers have had training in Special Education methods
- o Limited amount of studying each week outside of class
- o 80% of what students need to know is given by teachers
- o 20% of what students need to learn is developed in class

## College

- o 3-4 hours of class daily
- o 2-4 tests a semester
- o 5-7 chapters per test
- o Instructors have not been trained in Special Education
- o 2-3 hours of studying outside class for each hour in class
- o 20% of what students need to know is given by instructors
- o 80% of what students learn is developed outside class  
(homework, reading, studying)

# Typical Accommodations in College

- o Note Takers
- o Testing Accommodations
  - o Extended Time, Low Distraction Room, Test Reader
- o Assistive Technology
  - o Examples include *Kurzweil, Dragon Naturally Speaking, Zoom Text, Smart Pens*
- o Alternative Texts
  - o Audio, Braille
- o One-on-one Academic Tutoring
- o Executive Functioning Coaching

# Thank You

- *Teach Students How to Learn-Strategies You Can Incorporate Into Any Course to Improve Student Metacognition, Study Skills and Motivation* by Sandra Yancy McGuire
- *The LearnWell Project* by Leonard Geddes
- Lili O'Connell, Manager-Access and Disability Services, McHenry County College
- University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Center for Students With Disabilities