



Is college in your son or daughter's future?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ([IDEA, 1990](#)) guarantees the right to a free public education and the provision of special education to elementary and secondary school-age students with disabilities, though it does not apply to higher education.

The good news is that while colleges don't offer "special education" services, many go above and beyond what's required of them through the IDEA. Every college and university has an Office of Disability Services that is easily accessed from the school's website. These disability service departments provide support, at no additional cost, to students with disabilities. At this level of education, it's your responsibility as parent or guardian to contact a school directly

Services common to most schools include:

- Academic Support: Test prep, test taking, reading and writing, mental health professionals, organization and time management.
- Accommodations: sign language, interpreters, note taking services, text conversion, priority registration, testing accommodations, assistive technology and tutoring.
- Career Transition Supports.
- Neuropsychological testing.
- Accessible living accommodations.

Many schools may be appropriate for your child. The best way to know is by contacting each school's disability office directly.

A good planning resource for families is the [Center on Secondary Education for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder](#), a research and development project funded by the U.S. Department of Education focusing on developing, adapting, and studying a comprehensive school-based and community-based education program for high school students on the autism spectrum.

An additional resource for college planning can be found at www.onlineschools.org. This tool offers an in-depth guide that covers everything an online student would want to know about financial aid for online schooling.

An additional resource is the [Indiana Institute on Disability and Community](#), at Indiana University. IIDC recently announced its latest partnership, with Huntington University, to build

hands-on work and academic experiences for students with intellectual disabilities before they transition to jobs and adult life after high school.

For a sampling of colleges and universities with programs for individuals with disabilities, [click here](#).

When you're ready to get started, contact us today