

High School Special Education Vs. College Disability Support Services (DSS)

High School	College
IDEA protects legal rights of special education students	Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 protect legal rights of students with disabilities
Student has IEP planned by district	Student must provide “documentation of disability” and develop own education plan with assistance from a DSS counselor
Parent/teacher advocates for student	Student advocates for self
Special Education staff contacts parents and students to arrange accommodations	Student is responsible for contacting DSS for accommodations
Student’s attendance and progress are carefully monitored	Students have more freedom of choice re: attendance and classes and are responsible for monitoring their own progress
Student is required to attend school	Student chooses to attend college
Teachers don’t drop students from classes	Professors have the option to drop students from their roster or give a failing grade for not attending classes
Curriculum can be modified for students with special needs	No modifications – DSS helps students ACCESS curriculum through accommodations and services
Parent has legal right to access student records	Student is a legal adult and parent must have permission to access records