

Table 1

Differences Between High School and College

High School	College
The applicable law is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or IDEA	The applicable law is the Americans with Disabilities Act or the ADA and Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act
IDEA is about <u>success</u>	The ADA is about <u>access</u>
Fundamental <u>modifications</u> of programs and curricula are required	No fundamental modifications are required – only <u>accommodations</u>
Education is a <u>right</u> and must be provided in an appropriate environment to all individuals	Education is <u>not a right</u> – students must meet certain admission criteria
The <u>school district</u> is responsible for identifying a student’s disability	<u>Students</u> must self-identify
The <u>school district</u> develops Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) to define educational services	<u>Student</u> must identify needs and request services – no IEP exists and is not considered sufficient documentation
The <u>school district</u> provides free evaluations	The <u>student</u> must obtain evaluations at his/her own expense
Student is supported by <u>parents and teachers</u>	Student is responsible for seeking assistance from the <u>Disability Services Office</u>
Primary responsibility for arranging modifications belongs to the <u>school</u>	Primary responsibility for self-advocacy and arranging accommodations belongs to the <u>student</u> (who may seek assistance from Disability Services)
<u>Personal services</u> for medical and physical disabilities are required (i.e., Personal Care Attendant)	<u>No personal services</u> are required – however, the Disability Services Office may assist the student in advertising for such services
<u>Parent</u> has access to student records and can participate in the IEP process	<u>Parent</u> does not have access to student records without student’s written consent
<u>Parent</u> advocates for student	<u>Student</u> must advocate for self
School year runs from September – June	School year is divided into 2 semesters: from September to December and from January to May
Classes meet daily	Classes meet 1,2,3, or 4 times a week

High School	College
Classes are generally held in the same building	Classes are held in many different sites on campus
The average length of a class is 35-45 minutes	Classes vary in length from 50 min to 3 hours
Daily contact with teachers	Classes meet less frequently which will impact on access to instructors and assistance
The student needs the parent's permission in most instances	The student is an adult and parent permission is not required
Guidance counselors or other staff schedule support services for students	The student must make arrangements for support services
A main office exists as the center of activity for the building	The student is responsible for knowing where to go to obtain information and assistance
Classes consist of about 30 students	Classes consist of about 100 students
Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates	Professors expect you to read, save and consult the course syllabus (outline); this tells the student exactly what is expected of him/her, when it is due and how it will be graded
High school is paid for by tax dollars that go to the school district	The student is responsible for applying for financial aid or arranging some type of payment

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