

Social Work Policies: A Comparison

- **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**
 - A policy for students aged 3 to graduation of high school
 - The law that provides special education and IEPs
 - **Individualized Education Plan (IEP)**
 - Services specific to a student to help for success in the classroom
 - Shortened tests, extra time, fewer possible answers on tests.
 - Allows for curriculum modifications
- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
 - The policy in which colleges follow
 - Addresses discrimination based on either a physical or mental disability
 - Provides disability inclusion to create an equal environment
 - The main goal is to promote participation, equal opportunity, and economic equality for a disabled individual
 - Provides accommodations in the classroom
 - Includes services such as:
 - Preferred seating
 - Extra time on tests
 - Class notetaker
 - Recorded lectures
- **Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973**
 - Individuals with disabilities are protected from any and all discrimination
 - Provided in both K-12 schooling and college
 - 504 plans help provide a student with equal access in the classroom
 - In a college setting, disabled students can complete a degree in the same setting as nondisabled students
 - **Note: Special education is not provided in a college setting**

College Disability Services

Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD)

- Provides details on what a college's disability service's purposes are:
 - Advocacy
 - Counseling
 - Raising Awareness
 - Provide training opportunities
- **The Purpose of Disability Services**
 - A resource to enhance one's learning
 - Provide accommodations
 - Protection from discrimination
- **How Have Students Found Disability Services?**
 - **50%** through other students
 - **18%** counseling services
 - **12%** faculty members
 - **9%** student services

It is estimated that 19% of undergraduate students and 12% graduate students have disabilities

Transitioning from High School to College

The Disconnect:

- Documentation can be different
 - New proof requires a psychiatric evaluation
 - Appointments may take months
 - Appointments can be costly if not covered by insurance
- Students are left on their own to seek services instead of their school system
 - Creates difficulties for students with trouble self-advocating and who may not have knowledge on their rights/how to obtain accommodations
- **Students are not under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act anymore**
 - They follow primarily the Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Because there is no special education, Section 504 allows a disabled student to attend the same classes as nondisabled students

Disconnect Among Instructors

- **Universal Design of Learning**
 - Creates a learning environment in which all students can learn without barriers
 - **42%** do not fully understand Universal Design
 - **16%** do not have Universal Designs in their lectures or class plans
 - **13.8%** have an awareness about Universal Design
- **8.8% report having any training for students with disabilities**
- **66.3% have no knowledge in providing accommodations in an online setting**

What Can We Do?

- **As A University**
 - Provide disability services information after an incoming student decides on attending a university
 - Provide information on the differences in policy from high school to college
 - Provide training for instructors about disabilities, policy, and the universal design of learning
- **As An Instructor**
 - Receive training on students with accommodations
 - Receive training on the universal design of learning
 - Become aware on how imperative accommodations to a student are
- **As A Student**
 - Become aware of what disability services are
 - Understanding that services do not end after high school
 - Understanding the differences in policy
 - Communicate with your school any concerns regarding your rights, accommodations, etc.

Conclusion

- There is a change of policy once one transitions from high school to college
- Students will not receive the same services they once did
- Disability Services are available in college for one to receive accommodations in the classroom
- The transition from high school to college can result in a student becoming unaware of services in higher education, as well as leaving one feeling like they are left on their own to find accommodations
- Instructors may not understand how to provide a learning environment without barriers or have any training for providing accommodations
- Awareness needs to be made all around, especially for the university, instructors, and students

References

- Alder, D. (2023). *Differences between idea iep's, 504 plans, and college accommodations*. Bryn Mawr College.
- Parker Harris, S., Gould, R., and Mullin, C. (2019). *ADA research brief: higher education and the ada* (pp. 1-6). Chicago, IL: ADA National Network Knowledge Translation Center.