

# Not in Kansas Anymore?

## *Understanding Postsecondary Transition for Students with Disabilities*

### SESSION TAKEAWAYS

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Postsecondary Education is a primary post-high school goal for more than four out of five secondary school students with disabilities. These students have IEP team members who have carefully crafted a transition plan for the. Yet they are not always prepared for the significant changes that exist between the two educational environments. Below are a few key points from this session:

**HS Student Numbers** - In 2019, students with disabilities made up 14% of total public-school enrollment.

**College Numbers** - In 2015, students with disabilities made up 19.4% of the undergraduate student population.

**Environmental Differences** - In HS, students are told what to do and corrected if their behavior is not in line with expectations. In college, students are expected to take full responsibility for their academic success as well as the consequences and rewards of their actions.

**Instructional Differences** - In HS, students are taught by trained educational professionals who have received certification in specific areas for specific populations. In college, students attend classes led by experts in their fields of study but who often have little to no training in effective teaching strategies.

**Regulation Differences** - Students in K-12 are served under the IDEA and Section 504, subpart D. IDEA is an education law. Students in college are served under ADA, ADAAG, and Section 504 subpart E. These are civil right laws.

## IDENTIFYING THOSE STRUGGLING STUDENTS

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It is never appropriate to ask students directly if they have a disability. However, these three signs can indicate that an underlying condition exists.

Frustration

Fatigue

Failure

## STRATEGIES FOR ACADEMIC ADVISORS

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- Asking probing and open questions about their high school experience
- Include information about campus's office of accessibility in early conversations with students
- Assisting student in identifying strengths and weaknesses
- Be personable and approachable
- provide students with a summary of your conversations
- Plan and practice together
- Making yourself and your office accessible
- Check your emotional temperature before appointments

## KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

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**Knowledge** - Students need to understand their disability and be able to tell me where they feel the struggle in the academic realm.

**Self-advocacy** - Students need to be capable of speaking up about what they need to be successful and what accommodations used in the past were helpful.

**Documentation** - Students need to come to college with the current documentation to secure services.

**Critical thinking** - Students need to know how to think critically and make decisions.