

## COLLEGE BOUND TIPS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

More and more students with disabilities are applying for and being accepted into colleges and universities across the country. The key to a successful post-secondary education is that students become knowledgeable about their own accommodation needs and their post-secondary education responsibilities, as well as their educational rights.

- ◆ When a student applies to a college they do not have to identify themselves as a student with a disability. The entrance policy is not discriminatory.
- ◆ After exiting high school students become their own advocate under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Section 504 regulations apply to all colleges and universities that receive Federal funding. The law states that it is the college's or university's obligation to provide accommodations to qualified students with disabilities in a timely manner to ensure effective participation by students with disabilities.
- ◆ The student is obligated to advise the college or university of the need for accommodations and supports. The student may be asked to provide diagnostic tests and/or professional documentation for accommodations to support their request.
- ◆ Public Colleges and Universities will have a Disability Center or Support Center to process and assist with requests for accommodations.
- ◆ Colleges or universities provide needed accommodations and support on a case by case basis.
- ◆ The student is not required to pay for the cost of the accommodations.
- ◆ College bound students have the right to receive the same services offered to their nondisabled peers.
- ◆ A sample of accommodations under Section 504 that students may require are...
  - Audio Tapes of Texts
  - Note Takers
  - Interpreters
  - Readers
  - Student Tutors
  - Text Enlargers
  - Modified Calculators
  - Braille
  - Computer Adaptations
- ◆ While in high school get ready for college by...
  - Taking academic courses that provide college credit.
  - Meeting with high school counselor
  - Identifying successful accommodations
  - Developing self-advocacy and study skills
  - Learning about the College Disability

*Adapted from Newline, Exceptional Children's Assistance Center, Davidson NC*