

Life After High School: Finding a Good Fit for Students who Learn Differently



Foundations

- Consider student's academic, emotional, and social needs in selecting colleges
- A good overall fit is extremely important for students with learning differences
- The college search should be a student-driven process



Are you concerned about...

- Poor organization
- Procrastination
- Poor social skills
- Weak reading or math skills
- Impulsivity

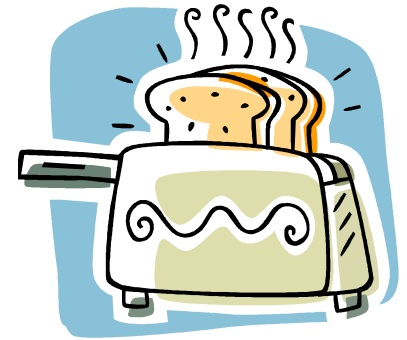


If so, you are in the right place!

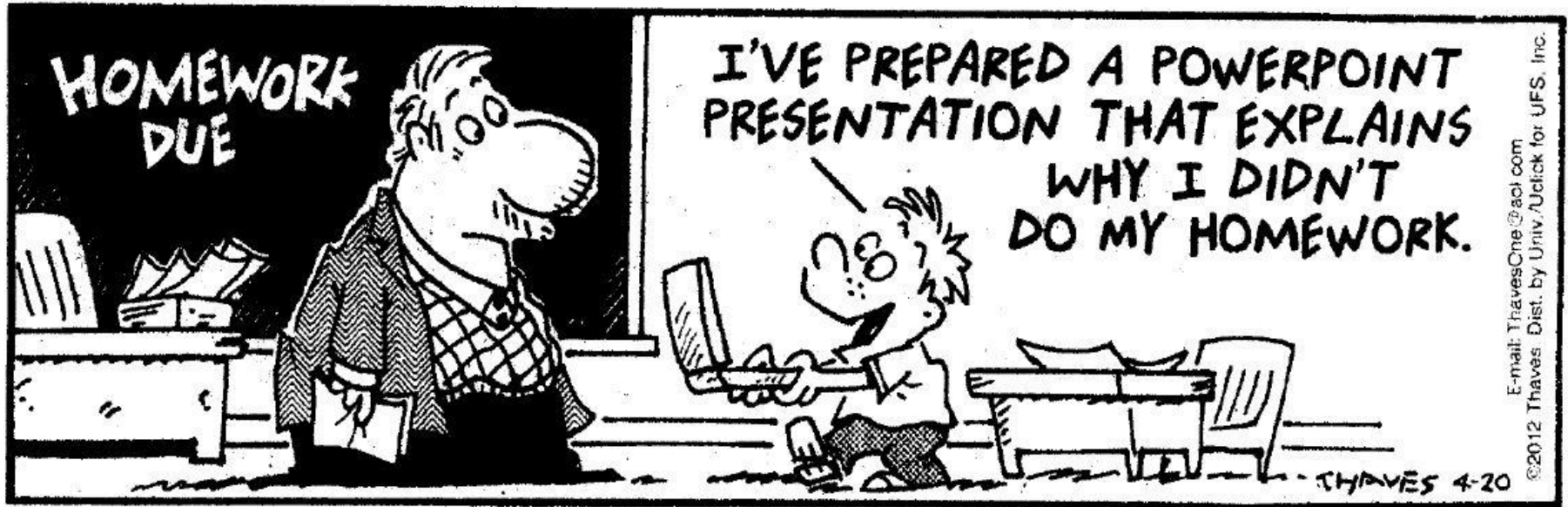


Life Skills

- Waking up
- Laundry
- Meals
- Medications
- Money management



College Ready?



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IDEA vs. ADA/Section 504

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act K–12 Education

Children with disabilities have the right to a free appropriate public education
(FAPE)

Americans with Disabilities Act Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (1973) Postsecondary Education and Workplace

Protects qualified individuals from discrimination based on their disability
(provides access)



High School vs. College

- IEP, 504 Plans and Accommodations Plans do NOT follow a student to college
- Need full psychoeducational testing to receive services and accommodations after high school
- Student must act as self-advocate; parents not involved beyond initial meeting



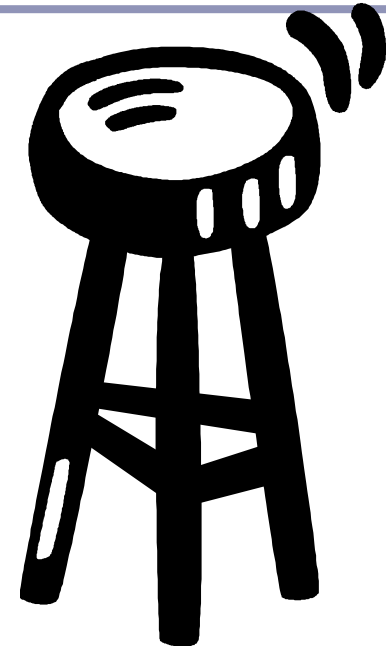
Psychoeducational Testing

- Documentation requirements
 - Full battery of testing
 - WAIS-IV (16+ years old)
 - Tests of Achievement
 - Specific rationale for math and foreign language exemption/substitution



College Readiness

- **Academic** ability
- **Emotional** regulation
- **Social** skills



Think: Three Legged Stool



Determining Priorities

- What is important to the family? The student?
 - Size, Location of College
 - Type of Learning Environment
 - Type of Community
 - Level of Support and Structure
 - Specific Accommodations and Services



Best Learning Environment

- Hands-on, experiential learner
- Internship, co-op experiences
- Interactive classes (bored in lecture-style)
- Ability to have reduced course load
- Priority registration
- Benefit from carefully chosen professors



Postsecondary /Transitional Programs

- Independent Living Skills Programs
- Two Year Colleges
- One Year Transitional Programs
- Post-Graduate Year
- Summer Programs
- Gap Year



Alternative “Next Steps” to College

- Postsecondary Programs
 - College Internship Program (MA, FL, IN)
 - Mansfield Hall (VT, WI & OR)
 - Institute for Collegiate and Career Studies (NY)
- Two Year Colleges
 - Vermont Technical College
 - Penn College of Technology
- Summer Programs
 - Landmark College
 - Beacon College
 - College Internship Program





Gap Year Programs

- Travel/Community Service/Internships
- Goals of Gap Year
 - Leadership
 - Self-confidence
 - Social skills
 - Emotional growth
 - Independence



Spectrum of Support in College

Know what your child needs:

- Basic ADA compliance
- Moderate support services
- Comprehensive support programs
- Social/life skills support programs



Colleges with Moderate Support

Some examples are:

- McDaniel College (MD)
- Longwood University (VA)
- Lynchburg College (VA)
- Susquehanna University (PA)
- Guilford College (NC)
- Clark University (MA)



Colleges with Comprehensive Programs

Some examples are:

- Dean College (MA)
- Adelphi University (NY)
- Fairleigh Dickinson University (NJ)
- Mercyhurst University (PA)
- Lynn University (FL)
- McDaniel College (MD)



Programs for Students with ASD

These programs include a social skills development component:

- Rochester Institute of Technology (NY)
- University of Connecticut
- Adelphi University (NY)
- Fairleigh Dickinson University (NJ)
- Mercyhurst University (PA)
- Davis and Elkins College (WV)



Colleges Exclusively for Students who Learn Differently

- Landmark College (Putney, VT)
- Beacon College (Leesburg, FL)

That's all!



#1 Reason for Student Success

Meeting on a regular basis throughout the semester with a learning specialist who can help the student manage his/her workload and can reduce the likelihood of a downward spiral



Summary

- Question and Answer Period

