



Dear Parent,

Congratulations on your child's graduation! This is an exciting time, not just for your child, but for parents as well. At Kalamazoo Valley Community College we understand that if your child has previously participated in the Special Education process you may have questions and concerns regarding the transition from high school to higher education. For this reason, we would like to give you important information to assist you in helping your child with this transition.

It is important for parents to understand that although the Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and ADA laws still apply to the college setting, Special Education ends as your child graduates from high school. Your child's 504 plan or the services they received through Special Education K-12 do not follow him/her to the college of their choice. Don't worry! Services are still available but the rules to access them are significantly different and are dependent upon your child's voluntary participation.

Parents can help by making sure that college bound students are prepared to advocate for themselves. In post secondary education there is no equivalent to the team approach to which both child and family are likely accustomed. Your child will be considered an adult at the college level with the privileges that come with adulthood; both the responsibility to self identify disability and disability related needs and the privacy protection that falls under the federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act. This means that for college students they must identify themselves to the appropriate office, provide sufficient documentation, and request accommodations based on academic needs. It also means that parents of college students are no longer allowed access to private information.

At KVCC we have a wealth of resources to assist our students. Not only does the Special Services Office provide advising and accommodations but the Learning Center provides tutoring, study skills and other academic support. Success advocates are available through the Student Success Center to help students make the most of their college and campus life. There are career and employment services, academic counselors, a Transfer Resource Center, and many student activities. KVCC has a friendly and inviting campus that students enjoy.

We welcome your involvement on the home front as your college student will still need your help and encouragement to stay on track and follow through on the tasks necessary to navigate their way through their own personal college experience. We look forward to meeting your child and assisting them in their educational pursuits as they enter this new and exciting phase of life.

Sincerely,

Lois M. Baldwin, M.A
Special Services Advisor