

# Family Checklist:

## Transition from High School to College

This checklist is designed to give family members an easy-to-use list of topics that should be taken into consideration when discussing transition from high school to college.

- ☐ Help your student set post-secondary education and career goals (consider person-centered planning).
- ☐ Ensure that your student is enrolled in academic courses throughout high school, which will prepare him/her for college courses.
- ☐ Know the difference between the laws that govern education at the secondary level (IDEA = entitlement) and at the college level (ADA = otherwise qualified).
- ☐ Encourage your student to attend and participate in the IEP and transition planning process.
- ☐ Help your student learn to advocate for himself/herself while in high school, which will prepare for when it needs to be done in college.
- ☐ Obtain college catalog(s) and the Higher Education in Idaho handbook which is published annually. Review these carefully with your student and with support from high school staff (e.g., guidance counselor, transition coordinator), as needed.
- ☐ Ensure that documentation of your student's disability is as up-to-date and comprehensive as possible.
- ☐ Discuss with your student the nature of his/her disability and how it affects school work.
- ☐ Encourage teachers to discuss what accommodations and technology your student uses now and what may be needed in college (e.g., reader, note taker, scribe, books in alternate formats, speech-to-text software, screen reader, extended time on tests, etc).
- ☐ Visit college(s) together before helping your student to make a final choice.

- ☐ Your student should meet with college Disability Services Office (DSO) staff to talk about documentation and learn about how accommodations in college are different from high school.
- ☐ Discuss goals, learning needs, and how to access specific accommodations, including academic supports that are available for all students (e.g., tutoring, writing support) with your student and DSO staff before classes begin.
- ☐ Figure out and set-up transportation prior to the start of school (e.g., driving, car-pooling, learning to use public and private transportation, travel vouchers).
- ☐ Be aware of financial aid resources available to your family and make sure that funding for all costs is arranged before school starts (e.g., tuition, books, fees, transportation).
- ☐ Identify how financial support your student may receive impacts other benefits (e.g., SSI, SSDI).
- ☐ Know what services are available through adult human service agencies (e.g., Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, etc.).
- ☐ Be prepared for the fact that you, the family member, need written consent from the student to obtain access to their records at the college level.

Adapted from *ThinkCollege.net*

<http://www.thinkcollege.net/families/index.php?page=checklist>