

Table 6.3 Differences Between High School and College

Rights and Responsibilities	High School	College
Your right to an education	Education is a right and must be provided. Attendance laws require presence.	You must go through an admissions process and meet the criteria to be admitted to the college.
Rights as a person with a disability	IDEA entitles you to special education services and accommodations for your disability.	The Americans With Disabilities Act and Section 504 provide some services and accommodations for individuals with disabilities.
Identification of a disability	The school is responsible for identifying your disability.	You are responsible for documenting your disability and requesting services.
Accommodations	Your IEP states the accommodations you are entitled to receive, and the school must provide these accommodations.	You must apply and request accommodations. Once the college approves the accommodations, you must arrange for the services through the disability services office and self-advocate with your professors.
Support	Teachers, parents, school counselors help you to make decisions.	You will need to ask for support and assistance from the disability services office.
Access to records and grades	Up to the age of 18, your parents can access your school grades and participate in IEP meetings.	After age 18, your parents cannot access your school records or grades without your written permission.
Class meeting times	Generally, classes meet every day and are between 45–90 minutes in length.	Classes may meet 1, 2, 3, or sometimes 4 times each week; class sessions can range from 45 minutes to 3 hours. Your class schedule will change every term/semester.
Class location	Your classes meet in one or maybe two different buildings on one campus.	Your classes will meet in different buildings in different locations on the campus.
Contact with teachers	You usually see your teachers every day.	You will probably see your teachers only on the days you have class. You will need to make an appointment to see a teacher at another time.
Class size	Usually, your classes range from 25–30 students.	The students in a class can range from 30 to over 300 students.
Assignments	Teachers will remind you about assignments, due dates, and tests.	You are expected to check the course syllabus for assignments, grading criteria, and due dates.
Costs	If you attend a public school, it is free.	You are responsible for paying tuition and fees to attend college. If you need financial assistance, you are responsible for applying for financial aid.

Note: For more information, see HEATH Resource Center (n.d.), *Parents' Guide to the Transition of Their Adult Child to College, Career, and Community*.