

Advisory Council on Postsecondary Education For Students with Disabilities

New York State Education Department

Co-Chairs: Regent Christine Cea and Tamara Mariotti

Advisory Council Charge

- The Advisory Council was established to advise the NYS Education Department on policies and practices to improve the transition of students with disabilities to postsecondary education and training, fiscal resource needs and disability-related accommodations and supports that will assist a student with college success.

Advisory Council Membership

- New York State Disability Services Council
- SED staff from: ACCES, Higher Education and P-12 Education
- State University of New York (SUNY)
- City University of New York (CUNY)
- Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities
- Student Advocate
- Association of Proprietary Colleges
- Proprietary School Council
- Regional Bilingual Education Resources Network
- Parents of students with disabilities
- Student enrolled in postsecondary education with a disability
- Transition Specialist
- ACCES State Rehabilitation Council
- Independent Living Centers
- Disability Rights New York
- Learning Disability Association
- NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)
- NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH)
- NYS Commission for the Blind

Advisory Council Sub Committees

- Four Committees were established: Fiscal, Legislative/Regulation, Technical Assistance, and Data Collection.
- Each of the Committees meet throughout the year supported by SED staff.
- Committees identified short term recommendations for improving access, participation in and completion of postsecondary pursuits for students with disabilities.

Recommendations

- Initiate a discussion with the appropriate representatives of the State University of New York, the City University of New York, the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, and the Association of Proprietary Colleges to support them in meeting the reasonable accommodation needs of students with disabilities. **(Fiscal Committee)**
- Revise Readers Aid Program legislation to expand the eligibility requirements and increase student financial support. **(Legislative/Regulation Committee)**

Recommendations Continued

- Identification and support of a sustainable “Multiple Systems Navigator” cross-system on the transition process including available services and supports for students with disabilities. **(Technical Assistance Committee)**
- Expand SED data collection with public postsecondary institutions (SUNY/CUNY) to link education data in order to gather transition data and require Bureau of Proprietary School Supervision (BPSS) collection of student outcome data. **(Data Collection Committee)**