

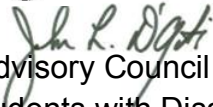




THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES) Committee

FROM: Kevin G. Smith 
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SUBJECT: Creation of an Advisory Council on Access to Higher Education for Students with Disabilities

DATE: December 9, 2013

AUTHORIZATION(S):


SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Should the Department create an Advisory Council on Higher Education for Students with Disabilities?

Reason(s) for Consideration

To provide an update to the Board of Regents on proposed steps to be taken to create an Advisory Council.

Proposed Handling

To obtain the Board of Regents support of the proposed next steps on the creation of the Advisory Council.

Background Information

The New York State Disability Services Council (NYSDSC), an organized body of professionals and lay persons interested in the provision of disability services to students with disabilities at postsecondary institutions in New York State recommended the establishment of an Advisory Council in a meeting with Commissioner King during their 2013 fall meeting. The Department is cognizant of earlier work in this regard and will learn and build from these efforts as relevant.

The issues impacting students with disabilities' access to and success in postsecondary higher education may include, but not be limited to:

- Availability of fiscal resources
- Effective transition planning
- Availability of disability related accommodations
- Support in acclimation to the rigor of higher education requirements
- Exemptions for Languages Other Than English and how they affect admission of students with disabilities to institutions of higher education
- Testing accommodations for English Language Learners with disabilities on college entrance exams and in college courses

The Council's membership should include representatives from:

- NYS Disability Services Council – Representative from each of the membership groups
- SED representative from each area: P-12, ACCES, and Higher Education
- State University of New York
- City University of New York
- Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (clcu)
- Association of Proprietary Colleges
- Proprietary School Council
- Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network
- Advocates, Parents, Students – including the Special Education Parent Centers
- Transition Specialists
- Other

Recommendation

In response to the need to improve access to and improve graduation outcomes from higher education institutions for students with disabilities, the New York State Education Department will create an Advisory Council on Higher Education for Students with Disabilities to provide critical thinking and feedback to SED on the issues impacting students' access to, support during, and the successful completion of a higher education degree.

Timetable for Implementation

In collaboration with the NYS Disability Services Council, SED will develop an implementation strategy.