

Advisory Council on Postsecondary Education For Students with Disabilities

New York State Education Department

Co-Chairs: Regent Christine Cea, Tamara Mariotti

Advisory Council Background

- The New York State Disability Services Council (NYSDSC) recommended the establishment of an Advisory Council in a meeting with Commissioner John King during their 2013 fall meeting.
- The Board of Regents approved the establishment of Council in December 2013. The Council's membership include Department staff from the Offices of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES), Higher Education, P-12 Education.

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.

2014 NYS Enrollment by Sector Students with Disabilities

	Total
CUNY	7,235
INDEPENDENT	17,991
PROPRIETARY	1,164
SUNY	20,166
Total	46,556

Data from 2014 NYSED Higher Education Data Collection

2008 Entering Cohort (status as of 2014) NYS Baccalaureate Graduation Rates by Sector Students with Disabilities

	Full-Time Entrants	Within 4 years	Within 5 years	Within 6 years	Still Enrolled
CUNY	97	21.6%	37.1%	46.4%	6.2%
INDEPENDENT	2,416	52.2%	65.5%	68.8%	1.6%
PROPRIETARY	8	12.5%	12.5%	50.0%	12.5%
SUNY	666	50.2%	68.5%	70.0%	0.6%

Data from www.highered.nysed.gov/oris/gradrates/bysector/page2.htm

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 Operating Parameters

- The Council held its first meeting on October 24, 2014.
- Guiding principles were developed and operating parameters established.
- The Council will meet twice per year, once each in Albany and New York City.

Advisory Council Sub Committees

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

Fiscal Committee

The Fiscal committee is researching and evaluating the funding streams available to address the reasonable accommodation issues impacting students with disabilities at institutions of higher education. Fiscal resources will be used to:

- Support reasonable accommodation needs of students with disabilities;
- Provide disability awareness and sensitivity training to faculty; and,
- Provide college preparation programs to help students with disabilities transition to college life.

Legislative/Regulation Committee

The Committee is exploring the feasibility of expanding the current legislation on Readers Aid to:

- Include students with other print disabilities (e.g., learning disability and traumatic brain injury);
- Increase the per student funding allocation; and,
- Include the procurement of Assistive Technology to assist students with disabilities in the post-secondary setting in successful completion of coursework.

Technical Assistance Committee

One of the goals of this committee is to develop a plan for the creation of a “one stop” resource guide containing information on the transition process, available services and supports for students with disabilities. This guide would be:

- Available to employers, families, students, schools (P-12), college faculty and state agencies;
- Web-based; and,
- Allow for easy navigation across multiple service websites.

Data Collection Committee

Studies impacting students with disabilities is being conducted via multiple systems and by several offices within SED and across the state.

The Data Committee is exploring options for connecting these independent data sources to:

- Determine the number of students entering post-secondary services;
- Identify successful model programs;
- Improve services to students and their families; and,
- Identifying gaps in services.