

# Supporting Students with Disabilities During COVID-19

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# Current High School Students

- Office of Civil Rights
  - If there is any kind of instruction being offered, it has to be offered to students with disabilities.
- Students should still be receiving accommodations, modifications, and services “to the greatest extent possible”
- Online learning is not always equitable for our students
  - Technology
  - Support needs
  - Communication needs
  - Lack of accessibility creates barriers for online participation
- Students are expressing need for more interaction
  - Some students are getting less than 1 hour/week of virtual time with teachers
- DREAM BIG Summer Career Exploration Camps: <https://starkloff.org/dream-big-inquiry-form/>

# Transition from High School to College

- Reach out to access/disability services office regarding accommodation supports and campus accessibility
  - Virtual tours may not address accessibility
- Learn how access/disability services office will interact with students if we remain in a virtual space
- Learn about documentation required to receive accommodations
- Get involved with disability-related student organizations
  - Talk with current students about their experience on campus regarding accessibility and professor adherence to accommodations
- Be prepared to begin college classes online in Fall 2020
  - Technology, how accommodations will be implemented

# Current College Students

## Self-advocacy is essential!

- Students should assess accommodation needs when faced with new barriers
- Hold professors accountable for accommodation implementation
- Work with access office for support with receiving necessary accommodations

## Starkloff Disability Institute

- Quarantine Catch-Up
  - These meetings will provide an informal opportunity for students with disabilities to come together for fellowship, to express frustrations and concerns, and to share resources and positivity.
  - Bi-weekly Thursdays at 3pm
  - May 7, May 21
  - Link to register:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrf--hrz8sGdOhJMKIFI46gFqVXF1KUvCO>

# Additional Resources

## High School

Center on Online Learning for Students with Disabilities: <http://www.centeronlinelearning.res.ku.edu/resources/>

Department of Education Q&A on Providing Services for Students with Disabilities:

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/special/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/qa-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf>

Rights of Students with Disabilities (TX): <https://www.disabilityrightstx.org/en/handout/3880/>

National Disability Rights Network Resource Page:

<https://www.ndrn.org/resource/covid-19-and-education-of-students-with-disabilities-resources/>

## College

STLCC Access Office-Disability Support Services FAQ: <https://www.stlcc.edu/student-support/disability-services/>

Rights of Students with Disabilities (TX): <https://www.disabilityrightstx.org/en/handout/covid19-college-rights/>