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
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--hrz8sGdOhJMKIFl46gFqVXF1KUvCO
Additional Resources

High School

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


College

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