

Accommodation Process Differences	
High School	Higher Education
Laws focus on high school completion. Education is a right and provided for free.	Laws focus on equal access. Education is not a right. Students must meet admissions criteria.
Student is identified by the school and is supported by parents and teachers.	Student must self-identify or disclose disability status to the appropriate office (Office of Accessibility Services at Fairmont State University).
The school may provide an assessment of disability and closely involve parents.	The student is expected to provide sufficient information about their disability, and provide documentation at their own expense, if requested.
Parents have access to records and can participate in the accommodation process. Parents are expected to advocate for the student.	The student is considered an adult with privacy and confidentiality protections. The student is expected to advocate on their own behalf.
The school develops an IEP or 504 plan, implements the plan, and monitors student progress.	Student requests specific accommodations with supporting information and the institution conducts an interactive process to determine reasonable accommodations needed for equal access. Student informs institution if additional accommodations are needed or concerns arise (Contact OAS).
Services include individually designed instruction, modifications, and accommodations based on the IEP/504 plan to ensure successful graduation.	Reasonable accommodations are made to provide equal access and participation. Instructors are not required to lower academic standards or implement substantial modifications that would impact essential requirements of courses or programs of study.
The school is responsible for ensuring students receive services and accommodations.	Students must initiate accommodation requests and follow appropriate accommodation processes to ensure accommodations are received.
Tutoring and study support may be a service provided as part of an IEP/504 plan.	Students use tutoring and other student success services available to all students through other departments on campus.