



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

Enhancing Supports and Services for Students with Disabilities for Postsecondary Success

ACCES AND HIGHER
EDUCATION PRESENTATION

OCTOBER 2024

BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING



Advisory Council on Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities

- NYSED (ACCES, Higher Education)
- State University of New York (SUNY)
- City University of New York (CUNY)
- Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU)
- Association of Private Colleges (APC)
- Parents of Students with Disabilities
- Postsecondary Students with Disabilities
- Office of Mental Health
- Independent Living Council
- Commission for the Blind
- NYS Disability Services Council
- Career School Coalition
- Office for People with Developmental Disabilities

Enhancing Supports & Services Grant Program

Supplement	Supplement existing supports and accommodations of students with disabilities in order to expand such supports and services.
Prepare	Support college preparation programs to assist students with disabilities in transitioning to college, and prepare them to navigate campus facilities and systems.
Train	Provide full- and part-time faculty and staff with disability training.
Identify	Improve the identification process of students with disabilities and enhance data collection capabilities.

Steady Growth in Students with Disabilities at NYS Institutions of Higher Education

Year	IHE Students with Disabilities
2019-20	77,931
2020-21	80,146
2021-22	86,040
2022-23	94,735

State Budget Request

- Board of Regents Priority in the SFY 2021-22 Budget.
- **The purpose of the grant is to** enhance supports and services for students with disabilities who are enrolled in SUNY, CUNY, and NYS degree-granting independent and private colleges and universities.
- SFY 2021-22 Requested \$15 million. Received \$2 million (\$26 per student).
- SFY 2022-23 Requested \$13.9 million in additional funding including staff. Received \$2.9 million (\$26 per student, plus staffing).
- SFY 2023-24 Received \$4 million (\$47 per student).
- SFY 2024-25 Continuation of \$4 million (\$42 per student).

IHE Application Process

- § **Enhancing Supports and Services is an annual, non-competitive grant. Kick-off notifications are sent every spring, after the NYS budget is enacted.**
- § **All institutions of higher education (IHEs) that submit an approvable work plan and budget draft by the application deadline will be funded.**
- § **The number of participating private institutions is 70-80 each year, plus the SUNY system and the CUNY system.**
- § **There is a wide range of award amounts each year, based on the number of students with disabilities reported by eligible IHEs.**

Innovative Use of Funding on College Campuses

“We implemented a peer mentoring program for our incoming first-year students with disabilities, focusing on communication skills, self advocacy, campus resources and the accommodations process.”

“One of our students shared that with the smart pen, she was more independent and did not need to rely on a peer note-taker.”

“One piece of technology we purchased was transformative. When a student’s doctor recommended they not look at a computer screen for 5 weeks during recovery from a concussion, a medical leave from school seemed like the only option. However, the special computer monitor we purchased prevented light-triggered complications, and enabled the student to continue with coursework, thus preventing a medical leave.”

“Training was provided to campus EMS responders to improve strategies to support students with disabilities during emergency situations.”

Panel

Dr. Lauren Rodriguez, State University of New York

Maryellen Guardino, Marist College

New York University [TV news clip](#)



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

Questions

