



**COLORADO**

**Department of  
Higher Education**

Fact Sheet

August 2023

## Recommendations for Improving Outcomes for Students with Disabilities in Higher Education

The Disability Services Advisory Committee, created from [HB22-1255](#), released their first of two reports in June 2023. [The report](#) included 17 recommendations for institutions of higher education and the general assembly aimed at improving access and success for students with disabilities. While the committee believes that all 17 recommendations should be adopted for changes to be meaningful, they selected the below five to focus on first.



HB22-1255 included two main requirements: the creation of an advisory committee to make recommendations to Colorado colleges and universities and the general assembly in the form of two reports (second report due in June 2024); and for CDHE to begin collecting student with disability data from institution of higher education with the first report due in January 2024.



The committee hopes the recommendations will help move higher education beyond compliance and toward consistent quality services for students with disabilities.



The committee wants Colorado to be a model for serving students with disabilities in higher education

### Five Recommendations to Focus on First:

- Ensure students with disabilities receive postsecondary education preparation services by appointing a Colorado Department of Education (CDE) supervisory program responsible for overseeing transition services at all school districts in Colorado.
- Provide a comprehensive new and transfer student orientation program that includes informative resource procedures for all college student support services and programs for students with disabilities.
- Establish a statewide higher education teaching and learning resource center designed to provide professional learning opportunities that provide specific training for college faculty, staff, and administrators to effectively support the education needs of students with disabilities inside and outside the classroom.
- Establish a statewide higher education IT help center to provide technical support and guidance for digital media, ECT, and web/online content accessibility.
- Establish a free disability learning evaluation referral program for students without a documented disability who are requesting accommodation services in higher education.

For More Information

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