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Dual Enrollment: Implications for Special Education

PRE-APPLICATION STAGE

1. PSI develops prerequisites and academic requirements which can be used by sending school counselors, and special educators. (Post-Secondary Institution (PSI) process.)
2. PSI develops a description of what accommodations and services are offered by the student support office at the college. (Post-Secondary Institution (PSI) process.)
3. Sending school IEP team members review PSI course requirements as well as what is offered through the student support office.
4. IEP team meets BEFORE student applies to PSI course to determine if the course presents a good learning opportunity for the student. The case manager or school counselor may wish to talk with admissions and/or the student support office.

Dual enrollment courses (college) are only covered by 504/ADA. Participation in a dual enrollment course is considered to be a choice on the part of the student. Therefore, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements concerning a free appropriate public education (FAPE) do not apply.

5. IEP team decides whether or not the course offered at the PSI center is an appropriate educational setting for the student based on information provided from the PSI. If the IEP team supports it then the team may recommend that the student apply.

APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE STAGE

6. Approval into the dual enrollment program comes from the school principal or designee.

Considerations: Does the student meet established academic requirements? Does this course present a good learning opportunity for the student? Have available accommodations via the college's student support office been considered in this decision? Does the IEP team support the student in applying? Will this help the student meet the graduation requirements?

7. Student applies to take the PSI course on their own.
8. If accepted into the dual enrollment program, the student is issued a voucher number that they can then apply for the course they were approved for.
9. The PSI or local high school may not deny admission based solely on disability. Admission may only be denied for other, objective reasons (see 1 above) such as not meeting the academic requirements or prerequisites.
10. If the student accepted into the dual enrollment program, the services outlined in the IEP must still be delivered at the home high school. Please remember that special education services do not apply to post-secondary.

QUESTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR IEP TEAMS

- The Vermont State Dual Enrollment Program is not a college remedial course.
- The Vermont State Dual Enrollment Program is a college level course that becomes part of the student's transcript.
- Is this course tied to the student's post-secondary goals?
- Dual enrollment presents a great opportunity for students to increase their self-advocacy and self-directed behavior—skills they will need after HS graduation. How can the IEP team promote and measure growth in this area?
- If the student's registration is accepted for the course, has he/she visited the college and met staff from the student support office? What accommodations need to be set up?
- Are there any reasonable accommodations that appear to be very challenging for the college to provide? How will that be addressed?
- How will the student manage their time on campus?
- For students who are deaf or hard of hearing - does the college offer interpreter services?
- For students with mobility impairments, is the college campus accessible?
- What process will the IEP team use to follow up and monitor progress in the dual enrollment course?

Students with disabilities who meet the prerequisites of a course may be provided reasonable accommodations that allow equal access, basically to level the playing field. However, colleges will not provide modifications to change the course content or performance expectations that would substantially alter the essential elements of the course. Students need to understand that not all accommodations available at the high school will be allowed in college level classes.