



In Flight For Students With Disabilities

IFFSWD

High school students may think they have plenty of time to decide on their career paths and acquire the skills they will need to market themselves successfully. Preparation and career planning should begin upon entering high school and occur throughout postsecondary studies.

As a student with disabilities, you face unique considerations as you plan your future. To assist you with these issues, the Guidance Department at Conwell-Egan Catholic High School in conjunction with the Academic Affairs Office and Nursing Staff have developed an action plan for academic success and college/career *planning for students with disabilities*.

Guidance, Academic Affairs and Nursing cannot do it alone; you must become a completely involved self-advocate! Becoming a self-advocate in high school will help you succeed. At the college level, *you* will be responsible for identifying and requesting support services. Parents are not automatically involved with your college education, and most colleges prefer working directly with the student.

How to become an effective self-advocate. To be an effective self-advocate, you must understand your disability, know how it impacts your learning, and become comfortable with describing your disability and academic-related needs to others. You will need to communicate your needs with logical and positive language. Communication is key.

Addressing these questions will help you become a self-advocate:

- What is my disability?
- How does it affect how I learn?
- What are my academic strengths?
- How do I learn best?
- What strategies can I use to help me learn best?
- Take an active part by meeting with your parents, doctor(s) and medical team to discuss and learn about your case file.

Our plan of action has three components; 1) Identification of a student with disabilities and distribution of medical information. 2) In flight. 3) Career and College Planning.

1) **Identification and Medical Information**-The purpose of this section is to identify students with disabilities and distribute information to teachers on academic and physical accommodations needed for success in the classroom. Parental consent is required.

• School Registration: Academic Affairs, [Sister Maria Teresa, SSJ](#)
Admissions Coordinator/Registrar

- **Identification**- a qualified professional must submit all documentation to Academic Affairs. Documentation must clearly describe the medical diagnosis of the disability and how it affects functioning along with recommended accommodations. This is required in order to be eligible for classroom accommodations and other support.
- The Nurse's office receives notification and a Health Assessment will be administered.
- The Nurse will administer medications.
- The Nurse will follow-up with parental consent and distribute medical information to your child's teacher. This information will include a general explanation of the disability and classroom accommodations already recommended by the Doctor. Your student is identified and the teacher is better equipped to help your child.

2) **In Flight** – The purpose of this section is to help the student become an effective self- advocate for his/her future career and college goals.

- Summarize your past goals and accomplishments and state your new goals.
- Establish your level of independence.
- The Guidance and Nursing Department will have a database on Community Support Services (independent living, self-esteem, support groups etc.).
- Be able to state what your needs are. Practice with your family school, support groups. Talk with confidence about why you are requesting specific accommodations. If you do not know what you need, be able to describe your learning challenges and be a part of the conversation concerning strategies that may help.

3) **Career and College Planning**- The purpose of this section is to assist the student with career and college planning upon entering high school.

- Each student follows the established path by the CEC Guidance Department for career and college planning.
- The Student (self-advocate) with disabilities will apply for the appropriate accommodation for SAT/ACT entrance exams.
- Finding a college to meet your needs will require research.
- A guidance counselor will assist you by directing you to web sites and schools; ultimately it is your responsibility. Once you narrow your college/career choices, it is important that you meet with the disability services coordinator at each location to determine services and accommodations that may be available. This may help determine the college that will best meet your needs. Always remember the importance of being a self-advocate.

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We believe that effectively addressing students' health and/or disability will improve their potential to learn, succeed in school and become contributing members of society. We will work together to provide educational opportunities that help students learn more about their conditions, development, self-care skills, independent living and transitional skills. We will assist with providing information to teachers and staff regarding educational accommodations and management of students with health conditions. It is our goal to enhance the educational potential by developing liaisons, collaborating with parents, healthcare providers, community programs and other professionals who work with students with disabilities. When an individual student becomes a self-advocate and is more optimistic in his/her approach to life, our goals are met.

In Flight,

Mrs. Margaret Blanco
Academic Affairs

Carol Marut RN, CSN
Certified School Nurse

Ms. Lorraine Lodise
Director of Guidance