

ACCESSIBLE COLLEGE

Starting Early: Preparing a Middle Schooler for College

WHY START IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?

- It's helpful to start developing independent living skills early
- Early skills development may lead to a more successful transition from middle to high school

WHERE TO START: KNOW YOUR CHILD'S RIGHTS

IDEA: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

- Law that governs special ed services and support for students with disabilities, K-12
- Does not apply to private schools

504: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

- Students cannot be discriminated against because of a disability
- Private schools, K-12, college

ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act

- Law that provides for "reasonable accommodations" in the college and employment setting

FERPA: Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act

- Law that protects the privacy of a student's education record



RESOURCES

- Coalition for College Access: www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org
- Accessible College Blog: www.accessiblecollege.com
- Facebook Group – College Success: **Physical Disabilities, Chronic Health & Mental Health**
- Reeve Foundation Resources/Project with Accessible College: www.christopherreeve.org/blog/tags/accessible-college



USE SKILLS AND INTEREST-BASED ASSESSMENTS

Who is your child and what do they need to develop? What are their long and short-term goals, their aptitudes and interests, and how might they hone these skills?

An example of an assessment can be found at: www.ucango2.org

- Preparing for high school includes exploring passions; skill building; academic considerations of courses to set a child up for long-term goals; foreign language requirements; and discussions to aid a child in articulating their disabilities or health conditions accurately
- Develop Self-Advocacy Skills by including a child in IEP/504 meetings; prepare them for conversations with healthcare providers; build independent living skills such as navigating public transit, grocery shopping, finding a community, and budgeting financial resources

Connect with resources to help guide you through this journey

- ☎ 1-833-PTC-HOPE (1-833-782-4673), or in Spanish 1-833-PTC-VIDA (1-833-782-8432)
- ✉ Email: insightfulmoments@ptcbio.com
- 🌐 www.ptcinsightfulmoments.com

