



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** Int 0660-2022, **Version:** \*

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Int. No. 660

By Council Members Dinowitz, Louis, Riley, Stevens, Hanif, Velázquez, Brewer, Ung, Farías, Sanchez, Lee, Won, Gutiérrez, Mealy, Feliz, Ayala, Williams, Krishnan, Abreu, Cabán, Carr and Borelli

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to establishing a program to provide transition services for students with disabilities entering higher education

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 10 of title 23 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 23-1004 to read as follows:

§ 23-1004 Transition services for students with disabilities entering higher education. a. Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Accommodation. The term “accommodation” means an adjustment or a modification that enables a student at an institution of higher education with a documented disability to participate as fully as possible in such institution, including, but not limited to, recording lectures or extended time for test-taking.

Higher education. The term “higher education” has the same meaning as is ascribed to such term in subdivision 8 of section 2 of the education law.

Individualized education program. The term “individualized education program” has the same meaning as set forth in section 200.1 of title 8 of the New York codes, rules and regulations.

Section 504 plan. The term “section 504 plan” means an accommodation plan provided to a student pursuant to section 504 of the rehabilitation act of 1973.

Special education services. The term “special education services” means services that a student receives through an individualized education program or a section 504 plan.

Student advocate. The term “student advocate” means an advocate designated by the mayor’s office for people with disabilities who provides information and support to students with disabilities regarding obtaining accommodations at institutions of higher education.

Student with a disability. The term “student with a disability” means a student who receives special education services and will graduate from high school in the current school year.

b. Program established. The mayor’s office for people with disabilities, in consultation with the department of education and relevant stakeholders, shall develop and manage a program, consistent with any applicable federal, state or local laws, to help students with disabilities obtain accommodations at institutions of higher education. As part of such program, the mayor’s office for people with disabilities shall:

1. In consultation with the mayor’s office of information technology and telecommunications, develop and implement a system to share information about such students’ special education services with institutions of higher education, including, but not limited to, developing and implementing a system in which a student, a student’s parent or a student’s person in parental relation, as defined in subdivision 10 of section 2 of the education law, may provide consent for the department of education to share such information;

2. Utilize student advocates to assist such students;

3. Educate such students about the process to obtain accommodations at institutions of higher education;  
and

4. Ensure such program complies with any applicable federal, state or local laws, including, but not limited to, those related to the education and privacy of such students.

c. Outreach. Not later than 30 days after the effective date of the local law that added this section, and continuing thereafter, the mayor’s office for people with disabilities, in consultation with relevant agencies and relevant stakeholders, shall conduct culturally appropriate outreach on the program established by subdivision b of this section to enhance awareness of such program. Such outreach shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

1. Creating a website to provide up to date information on such program, including, but not limited to, a description of such program, contact information, eligibility information and enrollment information, and made available in the designated citywide languages, as defined in section 23-1101;

2. Conducting culturally appropriate outreach regarding such program to each student with a disability who will be graduating from high school in the current school year and such student's parent or person in parental relation; and

3. Collaborating with relevant agencies and relevant stakeholders to enhance awareness of such program, including, but not limited to, posting culturally appropriate information about such program on the websites of such agencies and stakeholders.

d. Reporting. 1. No later than one year after the effective date of the local law that added this section, and annually thereafter, the mayor's office for people with disabilities shall report on the program established by subdivision b of this section to the mayor and the speaker of the council and post such report on the office's website. Such annual reports shall include, but need not be limited to, the following information for the previous year:

(a) The number of students with disabilities who participated in such program;

(b) A description of the assistance that such program provided such students;

(c) A description of the system established to provide consent for the department of education to share information regarding such students' special education services with institutions of higher education;

(d) A description of the duties of student advocates; and

(e) An evaluation of the outreach as required by subdivision c of this section, including, but not limited to, recommendations to improve such outreach, recommendations to improve utilization of such program and any resources needed to implement such recommendations.

2. No information that is required to be reported pursuant to this subdivision shall be reported in a manner that would violate any applicable provision of federal, state or local law relating to the privacy of

information.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 150 days after it becomes law, except that the commissioner of the office for people with disabilities shall take such measures as are necessary for the implementation of this local law, including the promulgation of rules, before such date.

NLB  
LS #7927  
7/22/2022