

Planning for College for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

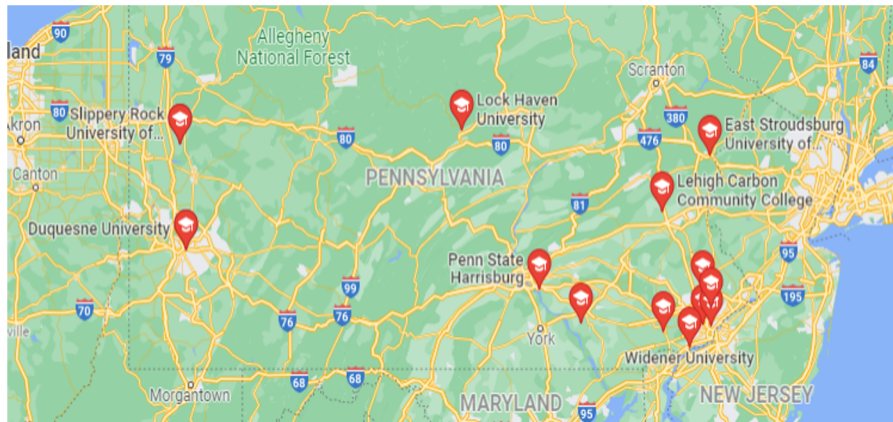


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Where are these programs located?

Slippery Rock

Duquesne



Lock Haven

East Stroudsburg

Lehigh Carbon CC

Gwynedd Mercy

Arcadia University

Temple University

Penn State Harrisburg

Millersville

West Chester

Widener

Where are these programs located?


[About PIHEC](#)
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[Resources](#)
[Subcommittee](#)

University	Program Name	Contact Name	Contact Information	Length of Program
Arcadia University	REAL Certificate	Jessica Mattis	mattisj@arcadia.edu 215-572-4095	2 years
Duquesne University	Compass Program	Dr. Alia Pustorino-Clevenger	pustorinoa@duq.edu 412-396-6696	4 years
East Stroudsburg University	Career Independent Living and Learning Studies (CILLS)	Domenico Cavaiuolo	dcavaiuolo@esu.edu 570-422-3282	3 years
Gwynedd Mercy University	Integrated Studies	Ariana Amaya	Amaya.A@gmercyu.edu 215-646-7300 Ext. 21408	4 years
Lehigh Carbon Community College	SEED (Success, Engagement, Education, Determination)	Michelle Mitchell	MMitchell@LCCC.edu 610-799-1154	2
Lock Haven University	Leadership and Integrative Studies	Erica Moore	erm684@lockhaven.edu (570)-484-2430	4 years
Millersville University	Integrated Studies Program	Jan Bechtel	Jan.Bechtel@Millersville.edu 717-871-5963	4 years
Penn State Harrisburg	Career Studies Program	Dr. Linda Rhen	lrx29@psu.edu 717-948-6638	Varies from Student to Student
Saint Joseph's University	The ASPIRE Program	Angus Murray	amurray@sju.edu 610-660-2170	Varies from Student to Student
Slippery Rock University	Rock Life	Zachary Baynham	zachary.baynham@sru.edu 724-738-4739	Varies from student to student
Temple University	Leadership and Career Studies	Titania Boddie	titania.boddie@temple.edu 215-204-3916	4 years
West Chester University	RAM Initiative	Colleen Comisso	CCOMMISSO@wcupa.edu 610-436-3548	2 years
Widener University	Integrated Professional Studies	Julie Heydeman	jheydeman@widener.edu 610-499-1102	2 years

Reasons to Consider Attending College



College Attendance Affects Career Readiness

- Youth with intellectual disabilities who participated in a college program and vocational rehabilitation had a 73% higher income than those who received only vocational rehabilitation services
- Nearly 80% of students participating in college programs were paid at or above the minimum wage
- Of the students employed upon leaving their college program, 90% were in jobs that are integrated and in the competitive labor market

The On-Campus Experience



Benefits of the On-Campus Experience

- Time Management
- Nutrition and Wellness
- Living space/Roommate
- Budget & Finance
- Opportunity to experience independent but supported living

Preparing for Higher Education



Getting Started

- Advocate for inclusive practices
- Talk about life after high school, talk specifically about college
- Have your child participate in IEP meetings as early as is appropriate
- Understand strengths, weaknesses, likes and dislikes
- Make college exploration part of the transition plan

Getting Started

- Important to start thinking about the transition process as early as is reasonable, but no later than age 14.
 - Make sure the IEP team knows your child plans to attend college.
 - Use person-centered planning and enable the student to participate in developing goals based on the student's unique strengths, interests, and abilities.
 - What transition goals might you include in an IEP that can only be met in a traditional college setting?
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How to Finance a College Education

Primary Resources:

- OVR
- Medicaid Home & Community Based Waiver
- Federal Financial Aid
- Dual Enrollment

Secondary Resources:

- Social Security
- Scholarships (Pittsburgh Promise, DREAM, Ruby's Rainbow)
- Private Pay
 - ABLE Accounts & 529 Plans

Support Services for Campus Living

Home and Community Habilitation waiver services can be used to support students:

- Safety on Campus: Support to learn how to navigate the campus.
- Laundry/ Housekeeping: Supervision and instruction with laundry and/or dorm room upkeep.
- Time Management: Support in establishing routine, study habits, free time activities, etc.
- Health and Wellness: Support to identify and participate in health and wellness opportunities.
- Accessibility: Assistance in navigating campus.
- Support Systems: Companion services to identify and develop support systems on campus.
- Money Management: Budgeting. Safety with money/securing money, valuables, and personal items.

Achieva Can Help You Plan

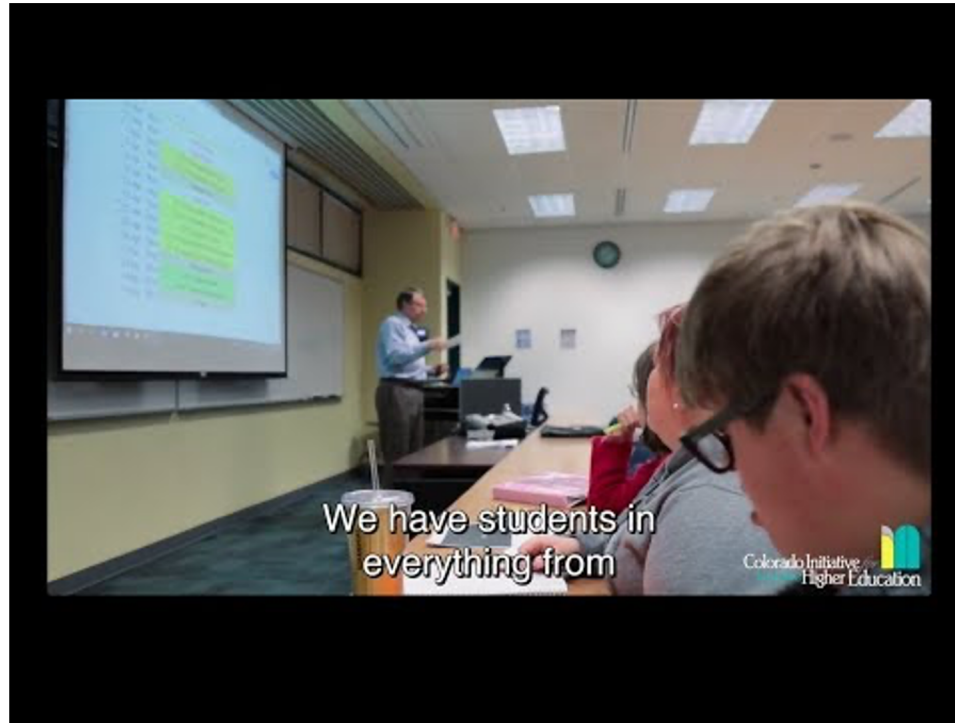
Start with an IEP Review:

- College-focused transition goals
- Skill-building recommendations specific to the college experience
- Information and recommendations about dual enrollment
- Collaboration with the IEP team
- Support for implementation of the Transition Plan

Other Resources:

- Information about existing programs
- Introductions to program directors and admission teams
- Connections with current families and students with intellectual disabilities currently attending college
- Resources to help pay for college

Exploring Higher Education: Next Steps



Resources

- Planning for College with Achieva:
achieva.info/college-planning
- Think College: [think college.net](https://thinkcollege.net)
- Pennsylvania Inclusive Higher Ed Consortium:
pihec.com

For more information on planning for college:

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