

# Disability Services and Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs: Aligning Support and Services to Achieve Access and Equity

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# Session Goal

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Together, we will explore how disability support professionals can partner with Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs (FPCTPs) to achieve equity and social justice on each of our campuses



# Agenda

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- ⊗ DSS Background – Very brief
  - ⊗ Legislations – Goals and Accountabilities
- ⊗ FPCTP
  - ⊗ Purpose and Intent of the Statute
- ⊗ Meat of the session
  - ⊗ Conversation on how to partner to achieve:
    - ⊗ Access
    - ⊗ Equity
    - ⊗ Social Justice
- ⊗ Closing thoughts—strategies for moving ahead

# Federal Laws

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Section 504 of Rehab Act:

**Anti-discrimination** legislation passed to address educational inequity for all **institutions receiving federal funds.**

Americans with Disabilities Act (PL 101-336)

**Civil rights** legislation passed to protect ALL people with disabilities from discrimination in all areas (school, work, transportation, other public places).

# Goals and Accountabilities

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Section 504 encourages institutions of higher education to make reasonable efforts and necessary adjustments to qualified individuals with disabilities

Called higher education institutions to action.



# Postsecondary Response to Call-To-Action

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Higher education institutions sought ways to ensure they comply by the requirements of the law and thus assigned individuals to:

- (1) Help protect the institutions
- (2) Advocate for the civil rights of qualified students with disabilities.

# Meeting Legal (504 & ADAAA) Obligations

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Designate a Professional/Office/Person(s) to:

1. Determine eligibility for services

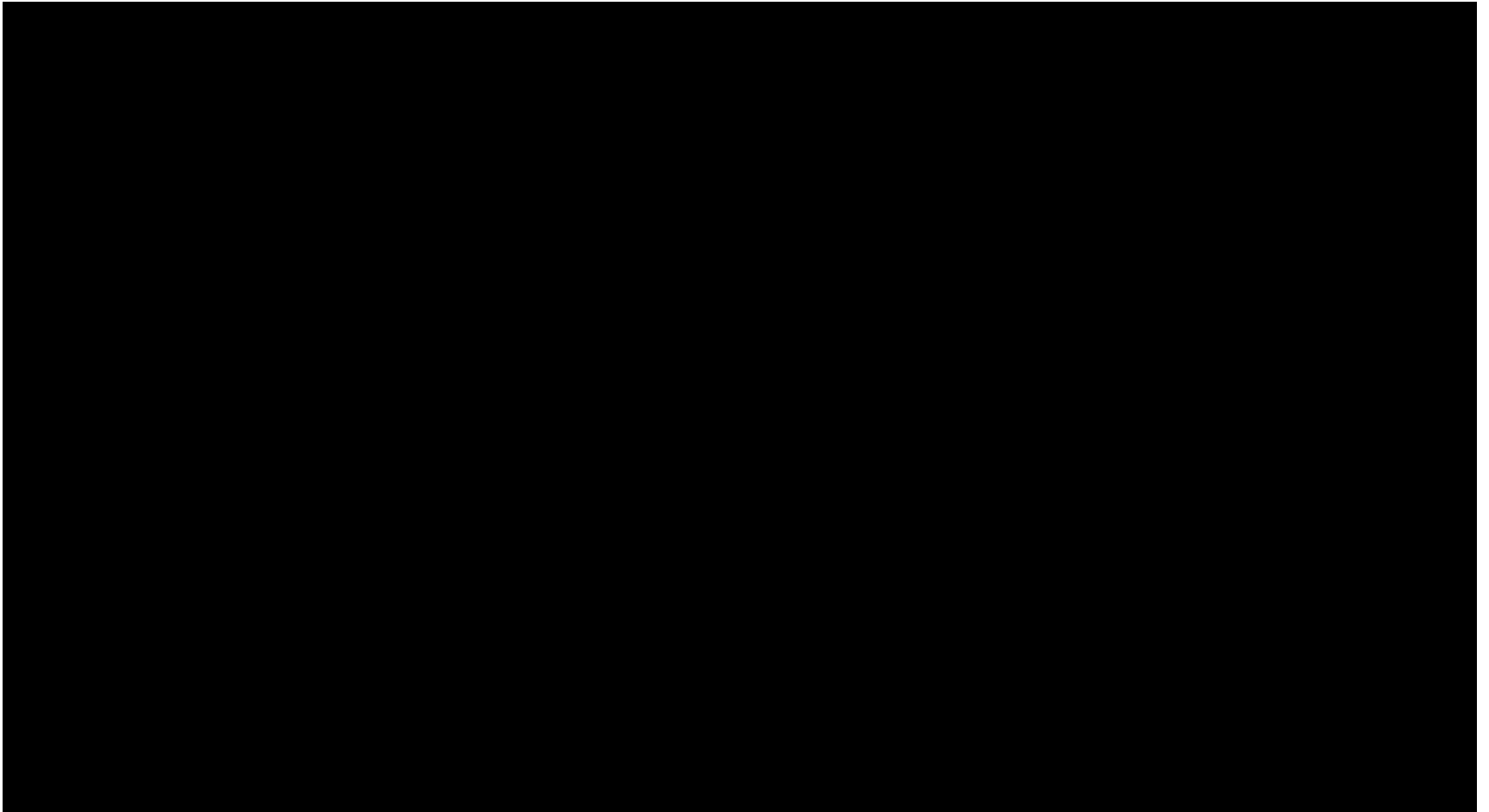
2. Determine appropriate level of services and support (reasonable, necessary, appropriate)

3. College/University resource expert

# Commercial Break

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# Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS)

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1. Provide institution-wide advisement, consultation, and training on disability- related topics
2. Collaborate and partner to identify and remove barriers and foster an all-inclusive campus
3. Ensure efficient and effective services and support to individuals and facilitate accommodations to students with disabilities including assistive technology.

# DSS Obligations

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1. Provide **institution-wide advisement, consultation, and training** on disability-related topics
  - a) Leadership
  - b) Resource expertise
  - c) Educator, trainer
  - d) Inclusive diversity efforts
  - e) Policy efforts (initiate/review/revise)

# DSS Obligations

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2. Collaborate and partner to **identify** and **remove** barriers and **foster** **an all-inclusive campus**

- a) Advocate/Collaborator
- b) Intentional Learner
- c) Positive Relationship for social and inclusive cultural engagement
- d) Resource expert
- e) Intuitive and Promoter of access and success

# DSS Obligations

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2. Collaborate and partner to **identify** and **remove** barriers and **foster** **an all-inclusive campus**

- f) Problem solver/Understands Power and Privilege
- g) Transparent decision maker/Great communicator
- h) Commitment to diversity and excellence
- i) Engage in policy development, review, change

# DSS Obligations

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3. Ensure efficient and effective services and support to individuals and facilitate accommodations to students with disabilities including assistive technology.
  - a) Ensure comprehensive service delivery
  - b) Promote access, success, awareness, and inclusion
  - c) Promote inclusive student experience
  - d) Advocate/collaborator

# Florida Statutes 1004.6495

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- PURPOSE—The purpose is to increase independent living, inclusive and experiential postsecondary education, and employment opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities through degree, certificate, or nondegree programs **and to establish statewide coordination of the dissemination of information regarding programs and services for students with disabilities.**

# Florida Statutes 1004.6495

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- LEGISLATIVE INTENT—Legislatures wants to ensure that students with intellectual disabilities **and students with disabilities** have **access** to **meaningful postsecondary education credentials** and be afforded the opportunity to have a **meaningful campus experience**.

# Group/Collective Exploration (DIFFERENT)

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- DSS Professionals
- FPCTP Professionals
- Others (?)



# Discussion Question

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- How might DSS office/staff better work/collaborate with FCSUA to assure postsecondary education access, attainment of credentials and meaningful campus experience?
- Who within your institution do you consider resources to help ensure access and success for all students, including students with disabilities?
- What types of trainings or professional development do you and others need to assure positive and inclusive experience for students with disabilities across postsecondary education environment?

# A closing thought...

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Let's not lose focus of our common goal of access and equity for all, let's do it together and do it well



# Presenter Information

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