

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**

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September 14, 2012

TO: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Chief Instructional Officers

FROM: Jack Scott, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Institutional Responsibility to Provide Reasonable Accommodations and Services for Students with Disabilities

I am writing to share with you that representatives from several disability rights advocacy groups met with me and members of my staff last month to express concern that some colleges may not be in compliance with state and federal mandates to provide equal access for students with disabilities. My staff and I described the steps that the colleges have taken to backfill the significant and sustained cuts to their Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS). During that meeting, I also agreed to send a reminder to the colleges that the requirement to provide the reasonable accommodations and services, as specified in the federal and state statutes listed below, is an institutional obligation, regardless of adequate state funding for DSPS.

Federal disability non-discrimination laws, specifically Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC, Sec. 794 et. seq.) and state law (Gov. Code Sec. 11135 et. seq.) require colleges to provide disability-related auxiliary aids and services, and other reasonable accommodations to meet the needs of students with disabilities. Federal regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) require that all resources of a public institution are to be considered available to meet the needs of eligible students with disabilities (28 CFR, Sec. 36.151). In keeping with this regulation, the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights and other enforcement entities have routinely held colleges accountable for this requirement.

Colleges are encouraged to consult with their ADA Coordinator, DSPS Director and their college/district legal counsel regarding these obligations to ensure that students with disabilities have the accommodations and services they need to be successful.

If you have questions, please contact Linda Michalowski, Vice Chancellor, Student Services and Special Programs at (916) 327-5361 or at lmichalo@ccco.edu.