

MEMORANDUM

To: Glenna Gallo, Director of Special Education Services
From: Utah Special Education Advisory Panel
Subject: School Guidance Counselors Access
Date: April 9, 2015

In our role as an advisory panel, we would like to provide input and recommendation to the Special Education Section of the Utah State Office of Education to improve services for students with disabilities through the provision of additional LEA support to students with disabilities, staff, and their teachers in the area of access to school guidance counselors for students with disabilities.

Recommendations:

- Students with Disabilities (SWD) should have access to school counselors as their typically developing peers do, to receive guidance from school counselors regarding programs, scholarships, post school information, technical schools, and college opportunities.
- Counselors should provide information to SWD and their parents on college resource centers for people with disabilities and other community resources for parents.
- Collaboration should happen between special education teachers, school counselors, transition specialists, and others who can put together a post school program that encourages college and career readiness to benefit SWD.
- Training of school counselors on the needs of SWD regarding College and Career opportunities.
- USOE should provide guidance to districts and counseling departments of their responsibilities for SWD as they do for typically developing students.
- USOE should collect and provide resources and information for counselors to share with parents of SWD on future opportunities for their students so that information is consistent across the state and by community.
- Collaboration should happen between school counselors, transition specialists, Vocational Rehabilitation, resource teachers, etc. to develop a more comprehensive transition plan for SWD.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing these recommendations. We as a panel appreciate all of your efforts on behalf of children with disabilities throughout the State of Utah.