



So Your Child/Student with Intellectual Disability is Thinking about College

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All Born (in) Conference : Portland, Oregon : April 6, 2019



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Agenda

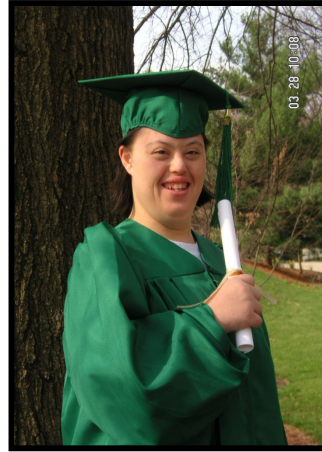
- Progress since 2002 – current postsecondary opportunities
- Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008
 - HEA being reauthorized
 - Financial aid for students with intellectual disabilities (ID)
 - TPSID model programs
- Accreditation Workgroup Report on model standards
- Preparing for college
- Finding the right fit
- Resources



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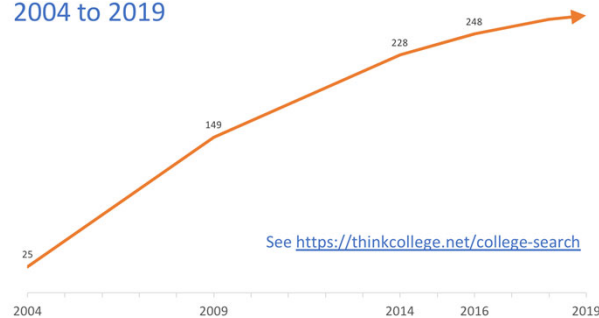
Inclusive Postsecondary Education Progress

- Inclusive postsecondary education (IPSE) for students with intellectual disability (ID) is a growing movement with 266 programs!
- See www.thinkcollege.net
- Passage of the Higher Education Opportunity of 2008 (HEOA) was key to expansion.
- The HEOA reauthorized the Higher Education Act (HEA), which is now due to be reauthorized again.



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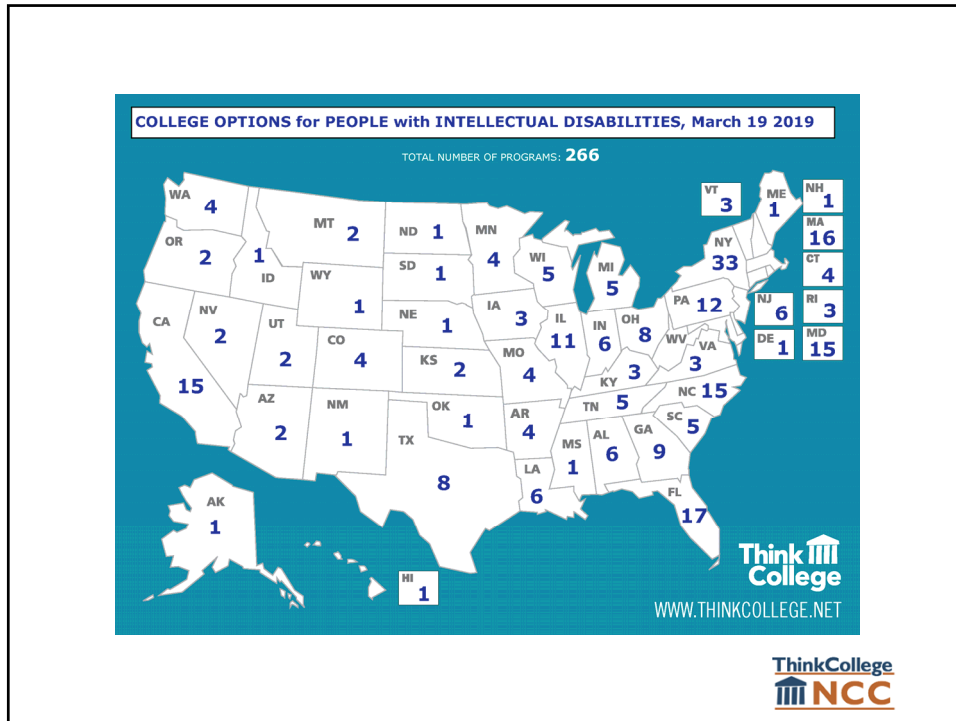
Higher education programs for students with intellectual disability in the U.S. 2004 to 2019 **266**



See <https://thinkcollege.net/college-search>



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College Programs for Students with ID

- Have alternative admissions process & requirements – regular HS diploma not needed
- Accept students who are non-degree seeking
- Vary in length – most are 2-year, some 4-year
- Vary in levels of academic inclusion
- Established course of study that leads to certificate
- May offer federal student aid (not loans)

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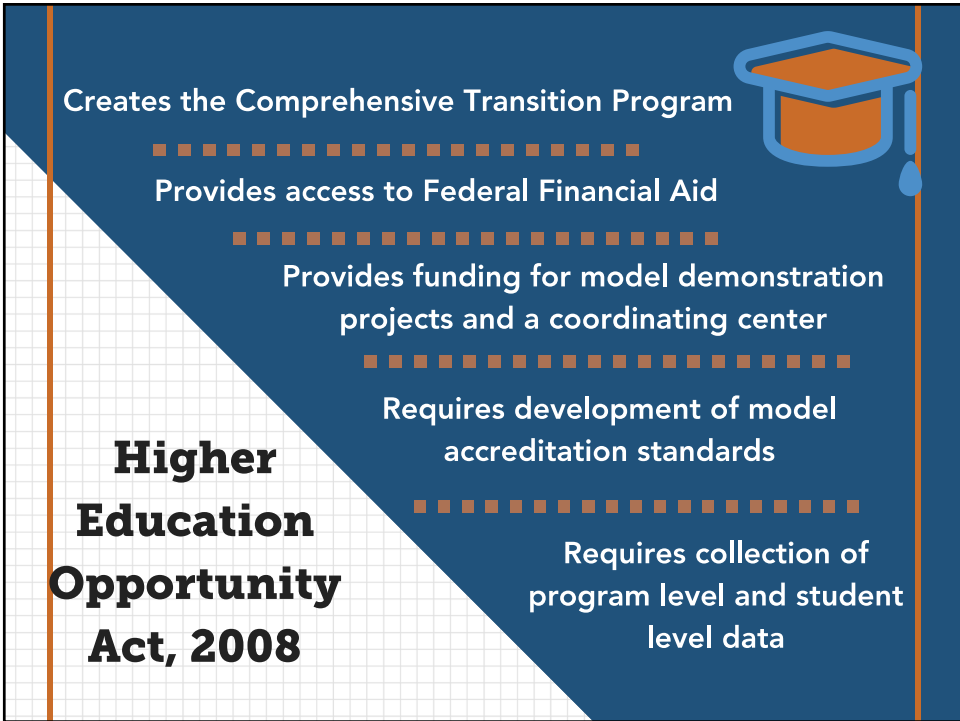
Opening Doors

To college, work, friendships, and living in the community




The collage consists of four photographs. The top photo shows a young man in a white polo shirt and khaki shorts standing on a set of stairs, looking at a device. The bottom-left photo shows two young women; one is holding a green sign that says 'MASON MADNESS' with the Comcast logo. The bottom-right photo shows a young man in a blue shirt sitting in a wheelchair, surrounded by three young women who appear to be interacting with him.

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Higher Education Opportunity Act, 2008

- Creates the Comprehensive Transition Program
- Provides access to Federal Financial Aid
- Provides funding for model demonstration projects and a coordinating center
- Requires development of model accreditation standards
- Requires collection of program level and student level data



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Financial Aid (Grants & Work Study, not Loans)

- Student must meet definition of “intellectual disability” (ID)
- Student must be enrolled in approved Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP)
 - IHEs must apply to US ED for CTP approval in order for students with ID to receive financial aid
 - For list of approved programs: [http: https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility/intellectual-disabilities](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility/intellectual-disabilities)
- Family must fill out FAFSA and meet financial need requirements

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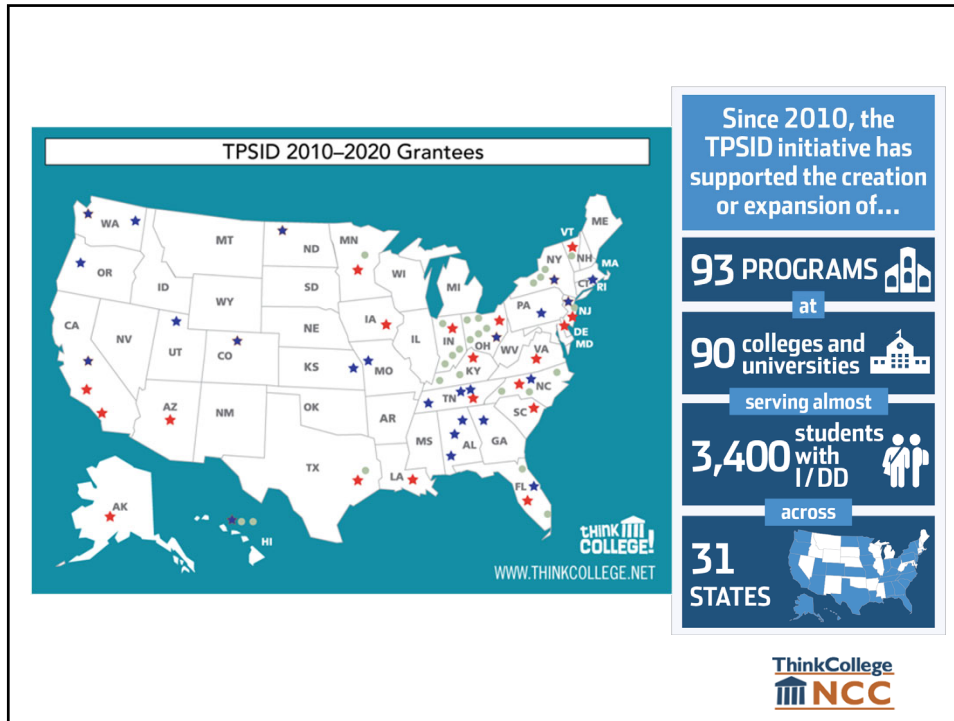
Definition of a Student with an Intellectual Disability

A student—

- “(A) with a cognitive impairment, characterized by significant limitations in—*
 - “(i) intellectual and cognitive functioning; and*
 - “(ii) adaptive behavior as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills; and*
- “(B) who is currently, or was formerly, eligible for a free appropriate public education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.*

If a student is not identified as having an ID during K-12, the regulations state how to demonstrate a student with another disability also has an intellectual disability

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Sample of Courses Attended by TPSID Students

- ✦ Academic: Beginning American Sign Language II, Fundamentals of Writing, Writing for Children, Introduction to Sociology, World Civilization II, Pre-Algebra, Careers in Healthcare, American History to 1877, Introduction to Psychology
- ✦ Business: Microcomputer Applications for Business, Principles of Advertising, Principles of Marketing, Principles of Management, Front Office Management, Hospitality Seminar
- ✦ Technology: Advanced Microcomputer Applications, Web Page Development I & II, Intermediate Photoshop
- ✦ Arts: Painting II, Ceramics I, Ballroom Dance, Latin Dance, Vocal Performance Workshop, Introduction to Watercolor, Write Your Life Story, Drawing I
- ✦ Career Exploration: Professional Etiquette, Keys to Effective Communication, Criminal Procedure, Strategies for College and Career, Sanitation & Safety, Child Development, Response to Terrorism, Making Movies, Introduction to Mass Media, Career/Life Planning
- ✦ Wellness: Personal Fitness, Introduction to Wellness, Swimming, Yoga I & II, Handling Medical Emergencies

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RESIDENTIAL CAMPUSES

Of the 36 TPSID programs that were located at residential schools, **22 (46%)** offered housing to students in the TPSID program

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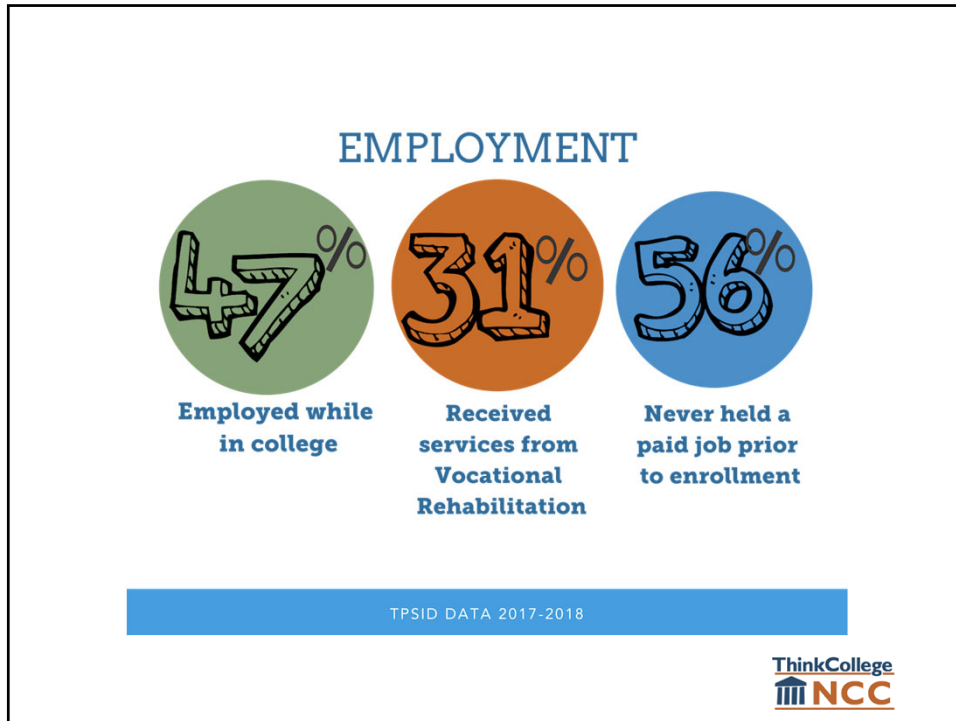
CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

90%
of programs engaged students in campus organizations

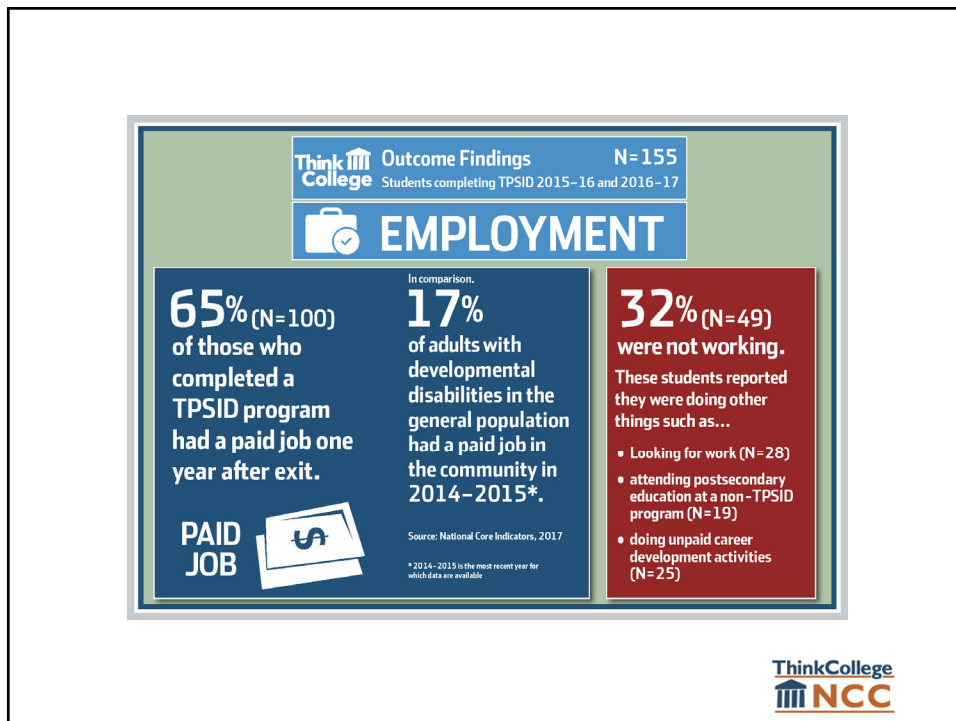
98%
of programs supported students to participate in campus social events

TPSID DATA 2017-2018

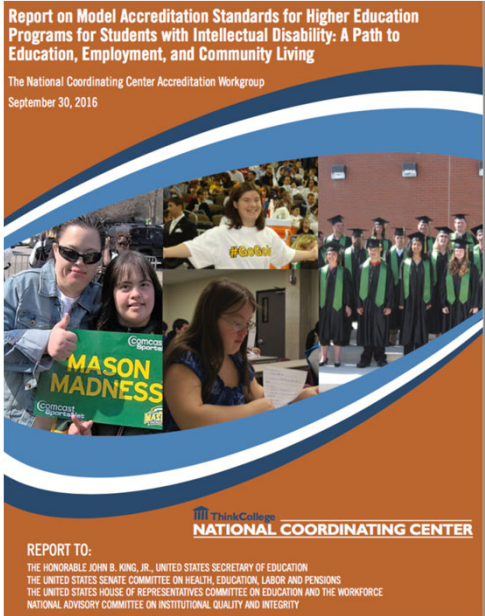
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Report on Model Accreditation Standards for Higher Education Programs for Students with Intellectual Disability: A Path to Education, Employment, and Community Living

The National Coordinating Center Accreditation Workgroup
September 30, 2016

Available:

<https://thinkcollege.net/resource/accreditation-and-credentials/report-model-accreditation-standards-higher-education>

REPORT TO:
THE HONORABLE JOHN B. KING, JR., UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
THE UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS
THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY AND INTEGRITY

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Keep the ID Provisions in the Higher Education Act!

- Inclusive Higher Education Committee (IHEC) led advocacy efforts for changes in HEOA 2008 and appropriations since then. Co-chair on behalf of NDSC. IHEC developed a set of recommendations for Congress to retain and improve ID provisions in the next reauthorization. Sent letter to Senate and House Committees signed by 100 organizations:
<https://www.ndscenter.org/wp-content/uploads/Senate-HELP-Com-ID-letter-3.22.2018.pdf>.
- Goal is to ensure ID provisions, with improvements, stay in HEA in the reauthorization.
- If TPSID model demos and National Coordinating Center are not included in reauthorization, the programs will end.

Appropriations: requesting a \$500,000 FY 2020 appropriations increase from \$11.8 mil to \$12.3 million



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Preparing for College: Plan Ahead!

- College is a possibility for students with intellectual disabilities
- Start planning for college early and be prepared
 - Inclusive education and access to curriculum
 - Literacy skills (reading, writing, math)
 - Self-advocacy and independent living skills
 - Communications and social skills
 - Paid jobs while in school
 - Research and visit colleges
 - IEPs and transition plans should reflect goals in these areas and post secondary outcomes of college, work and independent living

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Think College National Coordinating Center

Federally funded since 2010 to provide **coordination, training & technical assistance** to any college or university who wants to establish or improve postsecondary education opportunities for students with intellectual disability on their campus

www.thinkcollege.net



The banner features a stack of books on a grassy field with a blue pen on top. The text 'College options for people with intellectual disability' is on the left. The Think College logo is in the center, with the tagline 'CHANGING EXPECTATIONS. INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES.' below it. On the right, there are four dark blue buttons with white text and icons: 'COLLEGE SEARCH' (magnifying glass), 'RESOURCE LIBRARY' (book icon), 'INNOVATION EXCHANGE' (double arrow icon), and 'WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR STATE' (book icon).



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Finding the Right Fit

- Start with the basics: size; geographic location; urban, rural, suburban, etc., housing
- Use the thinkcollege.net database
- How to evaluate college programs for students with ID?
 - Has the program been approved for financial aid?
 - Model Accreditation Standards Report
 - Think College Standards, Quality Indicators and Benchmarks

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Finding the Right Fit: What questions should we ask?

- Visit www.thinkcollege.net to read: ***Conducting a College Search: Questions to Ask College Programs*** for great questions to ask colleges.
- Set up a phone call to ask questions.
- Schedule a college visit to see the campus and meet the staff, faculty, and students.
- Visit the disability services to see how involved that office is with the program.
- Connect with alumni and their families to learn about their experiences at college and what they're doing now.

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Think College Resources for Families

- Resources for families on website:
<https://thinkcollege.net/family-resources>
- Think College Learn module for families:
<https://thinkcollege.net/think-college-learn/families-0>

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The Think College Families Facebook page is a closed group that serves as a platform for families of kids in college or planning for college to talk to each other and share experiences.

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Resources

- 2019 State of the Art Conference o Postsecondary Education and Students with Intellectual Disabilities. November 13 & 14, 2019. Reno, Nevada
<https://www.sotaconference.com>
- Universal Design for Learning (UDL) www.udlcenter.org
- *Preparing your son or daughter for college: Suggestions for parents of children with intellectual disability.* Unpublished manuscript appearing at online at the blog, "Enjoying the Small Things." Retrieved from <http://kellehampton.com/?s=Westling>
- "She inspired those with Down syndrome as unstoppable — until she wasn't" ; Washington Post , March 17, 2016; https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/she-inspired-those-with-down-syndrome-as-unstoppable--until-she-wasnt/2016/03/17/f983fe5e-ea21-11e5-a6f3-21ccdbc5f74e_story.html?utm_term=.3da49bd0bf4c

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Additional Resources

- "LIFE Learning Is For Everyone: The True Story of How South Carolina Came to be a Leader in Providing Opportunities for Postsecondary Education to Young Adults with Intellectual Disabilities" : Amazon
- National ABLÉ Resource Center
<http://www.ablenrc.org>
- Report on Model Accreditation Standards for Higher Education Programs for Students with Intellectual Disability
www.thinkcollege.net
- Ruby's Rainbow: Scholarships for Youth and Adults w Down Syndrome
<https://rubysrainbow.org>

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Stay Informed With NDSC

- Sign up for information and action alerts on education policy by joining the NDSC email list at <https://www.ndscenter.org/stay-up-to-date-with-ndsc-news/>
- “Like” the National Down Syndrome Congress Governmental Affairs FB page at <https://www.facebook.com/dsadvocates/>
- Follow NDSC on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/thendsc/> and Twitter @policyupdates

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*Want to learn
more?*

www.thinkcollege.net



*Need Advice?
Think College
can help...*

thinkcollegeTA@gmail.com



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Questions

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