

# The Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower (RISE) Act

H.R. 2401 & S. 1071


## The Issue

Many students with disabilities receive accommodations throughout Pre-K–12 education, but when they transition to college they must navigate new and often burdensome requirements to document their disability. **The cost of a new evaluation for a student with a learning disability ranges from \$500 to \$2,500.**


## What the RISE Act Does

The *Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower (RISE) Act* amends the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) to ensure that students with disabilities thrive in college. It would streamline the process to qualify for disability services and require colleges to accept a variety of forms of documentation of a disability, including an Individualized Education Program (IEP), 504 Plan, notice from a doctor, or evaluation by a psychologist.

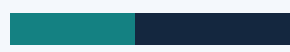
## Quick Facts




**19%**  
of undergraduate students  
reported having a disability.<sup>1</sup>



**94%** of students with LD  
received accommodations in  
high school, but only **17%**  
received accommodations in  
postsecondary education.<sup>2</sup>



**43%**  
who didn't receive  
accommodations in  
postsecondary **reported that  
they wished they had.**<sup>3</sup>



**72%**  
of **parents of high school  
students think it's difficult to find  
information about disability  
services** in college.<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Source: National Center for Education Statistics. (2018, May). Table 311.10. Number and percentage distribution of students enrolled in postsecondary institutions, by level, disability status, and selected student characteristics: 2015–16 [Data table]. In Digest of education statistics. U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences.

<sup>2</sup> Cortiella, Candace and Horowitz, Sheldon H. The State of Learning Disabilities: Facts, Trends, and Emerging Issues. New York: National Center for Learning Disabilities, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Newman, Wagner, Knokey, Marder, Nagle, et al. (2011), NLS 2 Wave 5.

<sup>4</sup> Source: NCLD May 2016 survey of over 800 parents on Understood.org merging Issues. New York: National Center for Learning Disabilities, 2014.

# The RISE Act Focuses on Three Critical Issues



## 1. Accommodations

The bill requires institutions to accept an IEP or 504 Plan, as well as other records, as sufficient documentation to establish that such individual is an individual with a disability. It also requires colleges to adopt policies that are transparent and explicit regarding information about the process by which the institution determines eligibility for accommodations and to disseminate such information to students, parents, and faculty in an accessible format.

## 2. Information

The bill requires institutions to submit key data related to undergraduate students enrolled at the institution who are formally registered as students with disabilities with the institution's office of disability services for inclusion in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) or any other Federal postsecondary institution data collection effort.

## 3. Training and Support

The bill authorizes \$10 million for the National Center for Information and Technical Support for Postsecondary Students with Disabilities, a resource center that provides technical assistance and information to anyone needing information about disability and higher education. Since beginning operations in 2015, the center has reached all 4,033 degree-granting institutions in the United States, serving as a critical resource for students, families, faculty and staff in higher education and secondary education.

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*Despite having a handful of evaluations on file, three days before my freshman year of college, my university called and told me that they decided my learning disability evaluations were too old and I could not receive any accommodations until I paid to get retested. College classes are challenging enough and the thought of not being able to show my intelligence in class was devastating and unjust.*

*- Josephine, NCLD Young Adult Leadership Council Alumni*

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NCLD



National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD)



# RISE Act Supporters



## The following organizations have endorsed the RISE Act:

- National Center for Learning Disabilities
- The Advocacy Institute
- All4Ed
- AHEAD
- AIM Institute for Learning and Research
- American Association of People with Disabilities
- American Federation of Teachers
- American Psychological Association
- American Occupational Therapy Association
- The Arc of the United States
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities
- Autism Society of America
- Autistic Self Advocacy Network
- Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
- CareSource
- CASE (Council of Administrators of Special Education)
- CAST
- Center for Learner Equity
- Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)
- Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination
- CommunicationFirst
- Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities Education Taskforce
- Council for Exceptional Children
- Council for Learning Disabilities
- Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
- Decoding Dyslexia Network
- Education Reform Now
- The Education Trust
- Eye to Eye
- Higher Education Consortium for Special Education
- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
- Institute for Higher Education Policy
- Japanese American Citizens League
- Learning Disabilities Association of America
- The Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights
- National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Dauphin County, PA
- National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
- National Association of School Psychologists
- National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
- National Association of School Psychologists
- National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment (National PLACE)
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- National Disability Rights Network
- National Down Syndrome Congress, National Down Syndrome Society
- National Education Association
- National Urban League
- The Parents' Place of MD, PAVE
- Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
- RespectAbility
- SchoolHouse Connection
- Show and Tell
- SPAN Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)
- Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children
- Teach for America
- Teach Plus
- University of California Student Association
- UnidosUS

## Original Co-Sponsors

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|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA)      | Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-1)       |
| Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)   | Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-IN-8)          |
| Sen. Todd Young (R-IN)     | Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT-2)           |
| Sen. Edward Markey (D-MA)  | Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA-5) |
| Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)      | Rep. Marcus Molinaro (R-NY-19)       |
| Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) | Rep. Kim Schrier (D-WA-8)            |

