



# Transition Newsletter

July 2024



**ADA34** ★ 1990 - 2024 ★  
Americans with Disabilities Act  
Celebrate the ADA! July 26, 2024

In July, not only do we celebrate the 4th of July but also the signing of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) which is a historic law that has helped ensure basic rights for over 60 million Americans with disabilities!

## RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT

Disability Rights South Dakota

**Disability Rights South Dakota (DRSD)** is the non-profit legal services agency dedicated to protecting and advocating for the rights and inclusion of South Dakotans with disabilities. DRSD embraces change and envisions a South Dakota where people with disabilities:

- have a life of inclusion and dignity;
- where they are self-directed and without barriers;
- where all citizens receive equal treatment and respect for their decisions;
- where citizens with disabilities and their families can live free from fear of abuse, neglect, discrimination, and exploitation.

*This is for information only. DHS is neither supporting nor endorsing the resource. Please determine for yourself if you wish to use it and proceed accordingly.*

### What is the ADA?

The ADA protects individuals with disabilities from discrimination in many ways. The ADA was passed in 1990 and was the first federal civil rights law protecting individuals with disabilities on various aspects of disability discrimination: Employment, Public Entities including transportation, Public Accommodations, Telecommunications, and Miscellaneous.

### Why is the ADA important?

Believe it or not, there were virtually no civil rights protections that included individuals with disabilities prior to the ADA.

- People using wheelchairs who wanted to ride a bus or train would most likely need to abandon their wheelchairs because there were no lifts or ramps for them to bring them.
- A restaurant could refuse service to a person simply because of their disability.
- Any place of employment could refuse to hire a person with a disability, and when/if they did hire them, they could legally pay the person with a disability less, even for doing the same work as a person without a disability.
- Because public restrooms were not accessible, people often had to wear precautionary diapers when traveling.
- A person who was deaf couldn't use a telephone because they had minimal access to a reliable relay system that could translate spoken words into written ones for them to communicate independently.
- Students with disabilities were typically not in public schools.



To learn more, go to [ada.gov](http://ada.gov)

# contact me



Name:

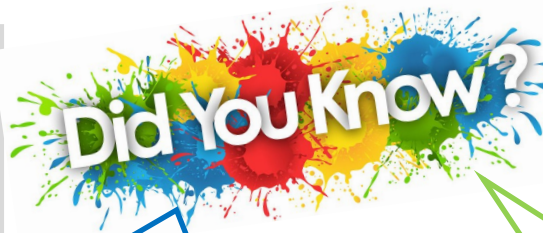
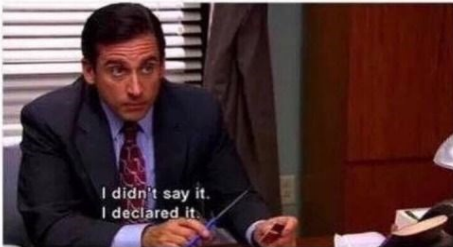
Phone:

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[DHS.SD.GOV](http://DHS.SD.GOV)

July 4th, 1776

British: just saying you're independent  
doesn't make it true  
Thomas Jefferson:



...that YOU have to request accommodations and supports (not your parents) once you leave high school in order to obtain them?

...there is a difference between the supports you receive in high school and supports available at college and the workplace?

...that if you don't ask, no one is required to help you and could just assume you can't do what is needed which could lead to failure?

It's important to understand the laws in place to help you advocate for the supports you need to be successful. Now that you know more about the ADA, let's talk a little about IDEA...



## What is IDEA?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law that requires all public schools to provide specialized services for all students with disabilities under an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for equal access to education. An IEP is a document that is developed and agreed upon by teachers, parents, specialists, and you, the student! The IEP describes current abilities, establishes goals to increase areas of need, and determines what is needed to accomplish those goals using special supports and services.

## What is the difference between IDEA and ADA?

IDEA allows students with disabilities to get the education they need to thrive. The ADA allows people with disabilities the same opportunities as everyone else to enjoy employment opportunities, purchase goods and services, and participate in state and local programs.

# IDEA

- ⇒ Governs K-12 public education settings
- ⇒ Focuses on ACCESS to education through IEP services and supports
- ⇒ Teachers schedules yearly meetings with your IEP team to discuss your progress and set goals for the upcoming year
- ⇒ Communication with parents is MANDATED by law
- ⇒ CAN involve modification of curriculum and assessments
- ⇒ Accommodations are designed to ensure success

# ADA

- ⇒ Governs college, workplace, & community
- ⇒ Focuses on SUCCESS in college and employment
- ⇒ YOU are responsible for meetings with disability services and/or employers to discuss needs and supports
- ⇒ Communication with parents is PROHIBITED by law
- ⇒ Modifications of curriculum at college is PROHIBITED by law
- ⇒ Accommodations are designed to ensure OPPORTUNITY for success