



Fact Sheet: SUNY Investments Support Students with Disabilities

Over 30,000 SUNY students report having a disability. Yet according to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), only 37% of students who had a disability reported it while in college. NCES found students who reported a disability were more likely to be placed in remedial courses and to utilize academic services.

Thanks to the historic investment by Governor Hochul and the Legislature in SUNY's operating budget for 2023-24, SUNY is investing first-ever sustainable annual funding of nearly \$10 million per year to support State-operated campuses in increasing support for students with disabilities.

- All 29 State-operated campuses will **hire staff to mitigate barriers and support students with disabilities**, including disability services coordinators, learning specialists, physical accessibility specialists, and electronic information technology (EIT) accessibility officers. For example:
 - SUNY College of Optometry will utilize its funding to support students with disabilities by establishing a Center for Teaching and Learning, which will house the Office of Disability/Accessibility Services.
- At least 25 campuses will **purchase new accessibility technology and equipment** for student and faculty use to ensure students can access course digital and in-person course content. For example:
 - SUNY Cobleskill will make requesting an accommodation easier and more seamless for students.
 - SUNY Potsdam is obtaining accessible desks for classrooms, as well as purchasing text-to-speech software to provide access to course content.
 - SUNY Geneseo is supporting digital accessibility by offering subscription services that support accessible course content and document remediation.
- At least 24 campuses will invest in **physical space improvements** to be more accessible. For example:
 - The University at Buffalo will hire a physical accessibility facilities specialist to provide dedicated attention to removing physical barriers on campus.
 - Buffalo State is designing a sensory room to have a quiet space for neurodivergent students.
- At least 21 campuses will **provide professional development** to faculty. For example:
 - SUNY Cortland's Center for Teaching and Learning will focus on inclusion and coordinating professional development on improving accessibility of course content.
- At least 8 programs are developing **summer transition programs** to help students with disabilities transition from high school to the demands of college.
- At least 11 campuses are using the funds to support other **innovative student-focused supports** for students with disabilities. For example:
 - SUNY Canton will develop a specialized support program for Autistic students.
 - Binghamton University has established Access Committees—composed of students, faculty, and staff—to embrace universal design principles and improve campus physical and technological spaces for people with disabilities.

Together, these investments will reach 29 campuses enrolling over 200,000 students and build on other steps that SUNY is taking to increase student retention and success.