

Differences Between High School and College

HIGH SCHOOL

VS.

COLLEGE

ACADEMIC SUPPORT	
Parents, teachers, and counselors often take responsibility to arrange for tutors.	Student must take responsibility to request and arrange for tutoring, even if college offers academic support services.
COMPETITION	
Not as much competition; lower half of class may not attend college.	Increased competition; better students go to college.
COUNSELING	
Personalized counseling by teachers and guidance counselors is easily and regularly available. Parental contact is constant.	Student is responsible for seeking counseling which is often impersonal and difficult to schedule. Parental contact is limited.
DEPENDENCE	
Student is told what to do in most situations; limited decision-making. Follow-up on instructions is usual.	Student must frequently make important decisions on his/her own. Self-discipline is necessary as warnings and follow-up are often non-existent.
DISCIPLINE	
Demanded by parents and teachers.	Solely up to the student.
DISTRACTIONS	
Regulations of school and home limit number of distractions.	Frequent distractions including sports, parties, and work lead to neglect of academics.
FREEDOM	
Routines established and enforced by parents, school, and community traditions.	Student is responsible for scheduling free time. Time management skills are needed.
MOTIVATION	
Drive to achieve and participate comes from parents, teachers, counselors, and friends.	Drive is completely from within student.
NEW STATUS	
Student's status in academics and social situations often influenced by family and community factors.	Student is in a new situation and is judged solely for himself/herself and by his/her behavior.
SCHEDULE	
At least 30 hours per week of classroom instruction. Regular daily schedule enforced.	Usually 12 to 15 hours per week of classroom instruction. Attendance may not be checked.
TEACHER-STUDENT CONTACT	
Frequent (5 days per week).	Less frequent (1 to 3 days per week).
VALUE JUDGMENTS	
Often based on parental values. Student is often given little choice.	New dilemmas with serious implications and consequences exist. Outside guidance is often limited.

SOURCE: Stevenson University. "Differences Between High School and College." [Online] 03 May 2009.