

## Off to College?

Prior to receiving her test results back, Kim had applied to a local community college and was accepted! Kim had dreamed of being a cook, and the school had invited her into their cooking program.

When her test results came back, and her school had learned that she had failed, the administrators were bound by state law and could not issue a high school diploma. Kim was invited to participate in the graduate ceremony, just like everyone else; but, when she marched on stage with her cap and gown, she received a “Certificate of Completion” rather than a diploma.

The college also took note, and an article with the following announcement appeared in Kim’s local newspaper:

*“The plans of a teenager with Down syndrome to attend [college] appear to have come to a heartbreaking end.*

*Despite her family’s fight to get the award-winning cook a special [high school] diploma so that she could go on to culinary college, the university turned down [Kim’s] application after learning that the diploma wasn’t certified by the state of Massachusetts because she couldn’t pass the [state proficiency] exam.*

*‘Her acceptance was contingent on a real high school diploma,’ said Miriam Weinberg, a spokeswoman for the university. ‘We need an official high school diploma.’”*

- 1. Was the college correct in denying Kim’s admittance to their cooking program? Why or why not?**
- 2. If you were Kim’s brother or sister what are some of the things that you could do at this point?**
- 3. If you were the President of one of the national Down syndrome organizations, what would you do?**
- 4. For people with Down syndrome who do go to college, what supports should be provided (and funded by taxes)?**