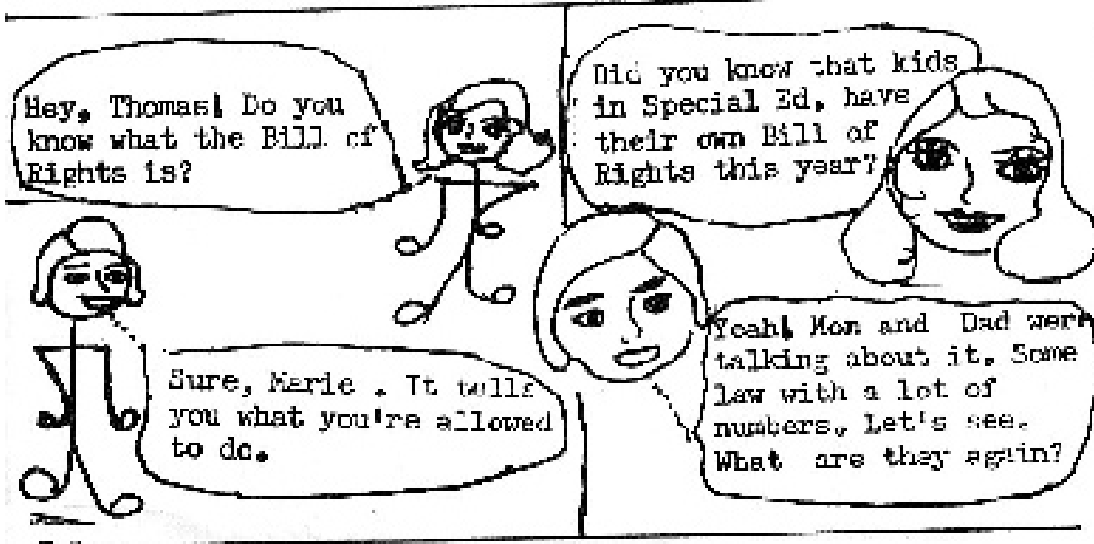


SPED NEWS

special education association
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PL 94-142 *

Welcome back, everybody! We hope you had a healthy, happy, relaxing summer. This is going to be a very special year for children in Teaneck Special Education and in Special Education all across the country. Why?

Two important laws affect our children, giving them and their parents the rights and opportunities that the rest of society enjoys. The first law was introduced by Mr. Shore at the last parents' meeting in June. It is called PL (Public Law) 94-142, Education for all Handicapped Children Act of 1975. The complexity and length of this law does not allow us to go into it in depth now, but a section at a time will be explained in each monthly newsletter. Of equal importance is another law passed in 1973, section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act which went into effect on June 3, 1977.

Simply, these laws can be broken down into two parts:

1. Due process of law
2. Least restrictive alternative

Due process of law insures that decisions about children are made in a fair and rational way. All parents must be told in advance about decisions made involving their children and the reasons for those decisions. Then the

parents can ask questions and either accept or refuse the recommendations made.

The "least restrictive alternative" includes the area known as mainstreaming. Section 504 states that handicapped children be educated "with persons who are not handicapped to the maximum extent appropriate." PL 94-142 states that departments who receive Federal money must establish "procedures to assure that to the maximum extent appropriate, handicapped children...are educated with children who are not handicapped, and that special classes...or other removal of handicapped children from the regular educational environment occurs only when the nature of the handicap is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily..."

Mainstreaming requires understanding and additional training on the part of the regular teacher, the one who would help put a Special Education child into the mainstream of a school. These teachers need help and encouragement from their administrators. The American Association of School Administrators (AASA) has been given a one year contract by the U.S. Office of Education to help implement PL 94-142 at the local administrative level. This project is to involve handicapped people and interested groups in the AASA meetings and in its committees. Publicity for these activities and information will be provided by the "School Administrator".

For more information, write for the free pamphlet:
YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE EDUCATION FOR ALL
HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ACT

Children's Defense Fund, 1520 New Hampshire Ave.
N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

* Information taken from AMICUS, National Center for
Law & the Handicapped

THE TEANECK SPECIAL EDU-
CATION ASSOCIATION IS A
GROUP OF PARENTS AND PRO-
FESSIONALS WHO MEET FOR ONE
PURPOSE, TO HELP HANDI-
CAPPED CHILDREN. MEMBERSHIP
DUES ARE \$2.00. ALL ARE
URGED TO JOIN. CALL PHYLLIS
GLATZER, TREASURER, 837-1878

THE FIRST GENERAL PARENTS'
MEETING WILL BE HELD IN
SEPTEMBER. WATCH YOUR MAIL
FOR FURTHER NOTICE.

The human organism, fortun-
ately for us all, is rein-
forced just by being suc-
cessful. B.F. Skinner