

## Students

### MAINSTREAMING

Every child with exceptional needs has the right to be education in the least restrictive, appropriate educational setting and be removed no further than necessary from the regular education school program. This guarantee prevents the unwarranted segregation of the student with disabilities from their non-disabled peers. This least restrictive environment setting further maximizes the student's opportunity to respond and achieve, permits the regular education teacher to interact proportionally with all the students in the classroom, and fosters acceptable social relations between non-handicapped and handicapped students.

The law does not advocate the placement of all handicapped children in regular classes, call for handicapped children to remain in regular classes without the supportive services they need, or suggest that regular teachers should educate handicapped students without help from special educators and other special services. It does, however, specifically call for regular and special educators to cooperate in providing an equal educational opportunity to all exceptional students.

In order to implement the law and meet the requirements of the least restrictive environment, the following considerations should be noted when developing a mainstreaming plan at individual sites:

- 1 All special education programs have equal access to all regular education programs and facilities on the campus.
2. A district cannot deny a handicapped child access to regular education solely because the academic progress made by the handicapped child will not equal that of regular education children because the law recognizes that handicapped children may benefit from regular education without achieving the same skills as non-handicapped children.
3. Class size shall not be the sole basis for denying a handicapped student the opportunity of mainstreaming on an ongoing basis.
4. The physical location of the classroom shall also facilitate social interaction with age appropriate regular education students.