

Legal Aspects of Special Education before 1975

- No law concerning education of children with special needs
- No obligatory services for children with special needs
- Some rich school districts provided services, others did not

1975

Public Law 94-142 – Education for All Handicapped Children Act (currently IDEA)

- Many institutions closed down immediately after 1975
- FAPE – Free Appropriate Public Education
- LRE – Least Restrictive Environment
- Describes the process of identifying children with disabilities

Process of Identification

- Before referral (child in a regular classroom or kindergarden)

Any teacher or parent of the child can ask for Intervention team or Pre-referral team examination

If 3x advice is given to regular teachers without positive results, child is referred to testing
(Psychological, Educational)

Testing – Multifactor Evaluation

- Must be completed by a team (minimum 3 people, sometimes up to 12)
- 3 tests must be conducted

-IQ

-Educational Evaluation

-Adaptive Behavior (Adaptive Behavior Rating Scale)

Members of MFE

-Psychologist

-Special Teacher (Intervention Specialist)

-Regular School Teacher

-Partents

-Member of School Board (defends the child if parents are not present)

Due dates

-MFE must be conducted within 30 days after referral

-IEP meeting must be held within 30 days after MFE

-IEP must be implemented within 30 days after IPE meeting

Parents can disagree any time during this process – new MFE team must be appointed from another district.