



Section I:

Laws & Policy Supporting Deaf Education

Because the The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law, can I expect my knowledge of this law to be applicable no matter which school district I work?

As a working educational interpreter, what are some of the resources I need to have at the ready to best participate in the education of the students I serve?

What information about the laws will I need to fully understand to best serve my district and its community of students and educators?

Interpreters, school personnel, families and students often struggle to acquire a basic working understanding of the legal and administrative parameters in place at any given time. These laws and policies are designed, and sometimes re-designed, to ensure students receive an education that meets their needs while attending school as well as when they transition as employees and citizens into the community. The resources here are a place to begin building not only your working knowledge of the laws and administrative policies but also the critical relationship they have to educational interpreting; that all important 'related service' in a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was passed in the mid-1970s mandating programs of special education in public schools.

"The purposes of this title are...

(1)(A) to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment and independent living."

School personnel, families and students should have a basic working knowledge of the law and the processes involved in ensuring students receive an appropriate education. The more you know, the better prepared you will be to be meaningfully involved in a student's education.



Section I: (continued)

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RESOURCES

IDEA Resources:

<http://idea.ed.gov/explore/home>

This site was created to provide a "one-stop shop" for resources related to IDEA and its implementing regulations, released on August 3, 2006. It is a "living" Web site and will change and grow as resources and information become available.

PEPNet:

http://pdcorder.pepnet.org/order/download_result.aspx

Provides projects that you can add to your packets; best part someone else did all the work. Most of these resources you can download or copy to your documents for free.

ADA Guidelines

www.access-board.gov/adaag/html/adaag.html

504 Related Web sites

www.ed.gov/ocr/regs/34cf4104.html

www.dol.gov/dol/oasam/public/regs/statues/sec504.html

www.os.dhhs.gov/ocr/504.html

FERPA Web site

www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpco/ferpa1.html

Comparison of Section 504 and IDEA:

www.idonline.org/id_indepth/legal_legislative/edlaw504.html

Comparison of IDEA, ADA and Section 504:

<http://www.dredf.org/advocacy/comparison.html>

Regulations Enforced by the Office For Civil Rights

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/rights/reg/ocr/index.html>

Sec. 662(c)(2)(E)

<http://idea.ed.gov/explore/view/p/%2Croot%2Cstatute%2CI%2CD%2C662%2Cc%2C2%2CE%2C>

Preparing personnel to be qualified educational interpreters, to assist children with low incidence disabilities, particularly deaf and hard of hearing children in school and school related activities, and deaf and hard of hearing infants and toddlers and preschool children in early intervention and pre-school programs.

The National Agenda: Moving Forward on Achieving Educational Equality for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

<http://ceasd.org/agenda/>

Goals for improving the quality and nature of educational services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students developed by a collaboration of professionals, parents and consumers.

Frequently asked questions:

<http://www.wrightslaw.com/law/osep/faqs.idea.assessment.htm>