

Training for Teachers Serving Students with Disabilities¹⁵

Purpose of the Program

The Personnel Preparation to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities program supports competitive grant awards to: (1) help address State-identified needs for special education and regular education teachers to work with children with disabilities; and (2) ensure that those teachers and personnel have the skills and knowledge to serve those children.

New Program Improvements and Resources

President Bush supports this program, because it will help to improve the education of children with disabilities by providing training for their teachers.

Last year, President Bush signed legislation that provided \$90 million for this program in 2002. This year, President Bush has proposed maintaining support for this program in 2003.

Highlights:

- The program addresses critical shortages of personnel to teach students with disabilities by implementing research-based training for teachers to serve children with disabilities defined under IDEA.
- The majority of grants are rewarded to Institutions of Higher Education that, in turn, provide training to teachers and personnel in how to educate students with disabilities. This training is often provided through scholarships to the participant.
- Participants receiving training must work in the area(s) for which they receive training or repay part or all of the scholarship funds they receive.

¹⁵ *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part D, Section 673*

State Improvement Grants for Students with Disabilities¹⁶

The State Improvement Grant program seeks to ensure that teachers of children with disabilities have the content and pedagogical skills to ensure that children with disabilities meet the same challenging State standards as non-disabled students. Seventy five percent of these State grants must be used for professional development.

Purpose of the Program

The State Improvement Grant program assists States in reforming and improving their educational, early intervention, teacher training, and transitional services for students with disabilities.

New Program Improvements and Resources

President Bush supports this program, because it will help to improve the education of children with disabilities by providing training for their teachers.

Last year, President Bush signed legislation that provided \$51.7 million for this program in 2002. This year, President Bush has proposed maintaining support for this program in 2003.

Highlights:

States can use their grants for the following purposes:

- Training special education teachers in effective reading intervention programs.
- Training general education teachers in modifying instruction to meet the educational needs of all students in their classroom.
- Developing partnerships with universities to ensure that pre-service and in-service university instruction is aligned with State standards.
- Recruiting special education teachers and regular education teachers through web-based recruitment strategies
- Retaining greater numbers of special education teachers through mentorship programs

¹⁶ *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part D*