

WE ARE SPECIAL

A conversation about special education:
Then, now, and our hopes for the future.



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Susanne Leslie, Moderator



Keely Swartzner, Panelist



Jill Rockwell, Panelist

TODAY'S PRESENTERS

Panelist: Keely Swartz

Role: Special Education Teacher (Emotional Behavior Disorders and Cross Categorical) and then Special Education Coordinator in the Delano, Minnesota District

Responsibilities: As a teacher, I taught elementary aged students with disabilities, completed “due process” paperwork, and many other things. As a coordinator, I supervised staff and provided oversight of all special education services in the district.

Taught: 11 years, worked in administration for 9 years.

Top Tip: Take care of yourself and build relationships with students, parents and colleagues.

Panelist: Jill Rockwell

Role: Former Special Education Resource Teacher

Responsibilities: Worked with students diagnosed with LD, EBD, ASD, and ADHD who were mainstreamed with general education peers. Provided behavioral supports; facilitated social skills groups; team taught with general education teachers; IEPs; administered assessments for SPED eligibility; managed a team of para-professionals... (I'm sure I'm forgetting many other tasks!)

Taught: 13 years in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and California.

Top Tip: Document, document, document



"Don't lick the desk."

Just another Monday.

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Then & Now

What was special education like when you first started teaching?

In what ways have you seen special education evolve?

From CRUELTY to UNDERSTANDING

Trends in SPECIAL EDUCATION from then to now

HOW FAR WE'VE COME...

For thousands of years the disabled were abandoned and treated as **OUTCASTS**.

T
O
D
A
Y

96%

of children with disabilities are educated in regular public schools
• That's 6.7 million kids! •



COLONIAL AMERICA
Parents had few options other than to educate their children at home or pay for expensive private education.

THE ROAD TO INCLUSION

1552 BC

Earliest reference to intellectual disability:
EGYPTIAN PAPYRUS OF THEBES



800 BC

Ancient Greeks & Romans thought disabled children were born because **THE GODS WERE ANGRY**.

1776 Stephen Hopkins was a Declaration of Independence signer with cerebral palsy. Upon signing, he said: "My hands may tremble, but my heart does not."

Step. Hopkins

A CHANGE IS BREWING...

Enrollment (Year One)

Later On

1817 The Connecticut Asylum at Hartford for the Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Persons opens. It is the first permanent school for the deaf in the U.S.

7

33 BY 1818

1829 The New England Asylum for the Blind opens as the first school in the U.S. for children with visual disabilities.

6

60 BY 1839

• More to be done... •

By 1969, more than **1 MILLION** children with disabilities are still excluded from schools, with **HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS** housed in state institutions.

MODERN LEGISLATION PAVES THE WAY FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

1975

IDEA
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Landmark legislation. Children with disabilities have the right to attend public schools and learn in regular classrooms.

1990

ADA
The Americans with Disabilities Act

Our nation's first comprehensive civil rights law protecting the rights and needs of the disabled.

2001

No Child Left Behind

Law calling for all students, including students with disabilities, to be proficient in math and reading by 2014.

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THE NUMBERS



TODAY: Thanks to IDEA, that number has risen to 96%.

50

percentage of students with disabilities that spend at least

80%

of their day in regular classrooms



1985: Only 1 in 5 children with a disability is educated in a regular school.



Number of children and youth, ages 3-21 receiving special ed services

In the last 20 years...



COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATES among students with disabilities have more than tripled



The special education TEACHING FORCE has more than doubled

THE FUTURE OF SPECIAL ED: 2013-2014 AND BEYOND

Ways to make things better



With budgets tighter, and fewer teachers, program reforms needed



Increase the use of technologies, iPads, & apps to aid teachers



Maximizing the meaningful interaction between students and their nondisabled peers

MODERN DAY HEROES & VILLAINS



EVA LONGORIA
Started *Eva's Heroes*, which helps teens and young adults with special needs.

HENRY WINKLER
The Fonz is dyslexic. He is now a children's book author.



JIMMY KIMMEL
Fundraiser. Has an autistic relative.

SKECHERS SHOE COMPANY
Fundraisers for special needs kids.



THE VILLAIN: SEQUESTRATION

300,000

Students receiving special education services will be affected

NO. OF SPECIAL ED TEACHERS LAID OFF DUE TO SEQUESTRATION (2012)

Over 10,000

15%

Reduction in federal funding of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

This Means

Many schools will have fewer speech, occupational or physical therapists

Many schools will have fewer social workers and school psychologists

Federal share of funding states for special ed programs falls to

only 14.9%

aka the LOWEST contribution by percent dating to 2001.

\$579 MILLION CUT FROM

WHICH SUPPORTS STUDENTS AGES 3-21 WITH: LEARNING DISABILITIES SPEECH IMPAIRMENTS

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Forget Burn-Out, Let's Talk Resilience!

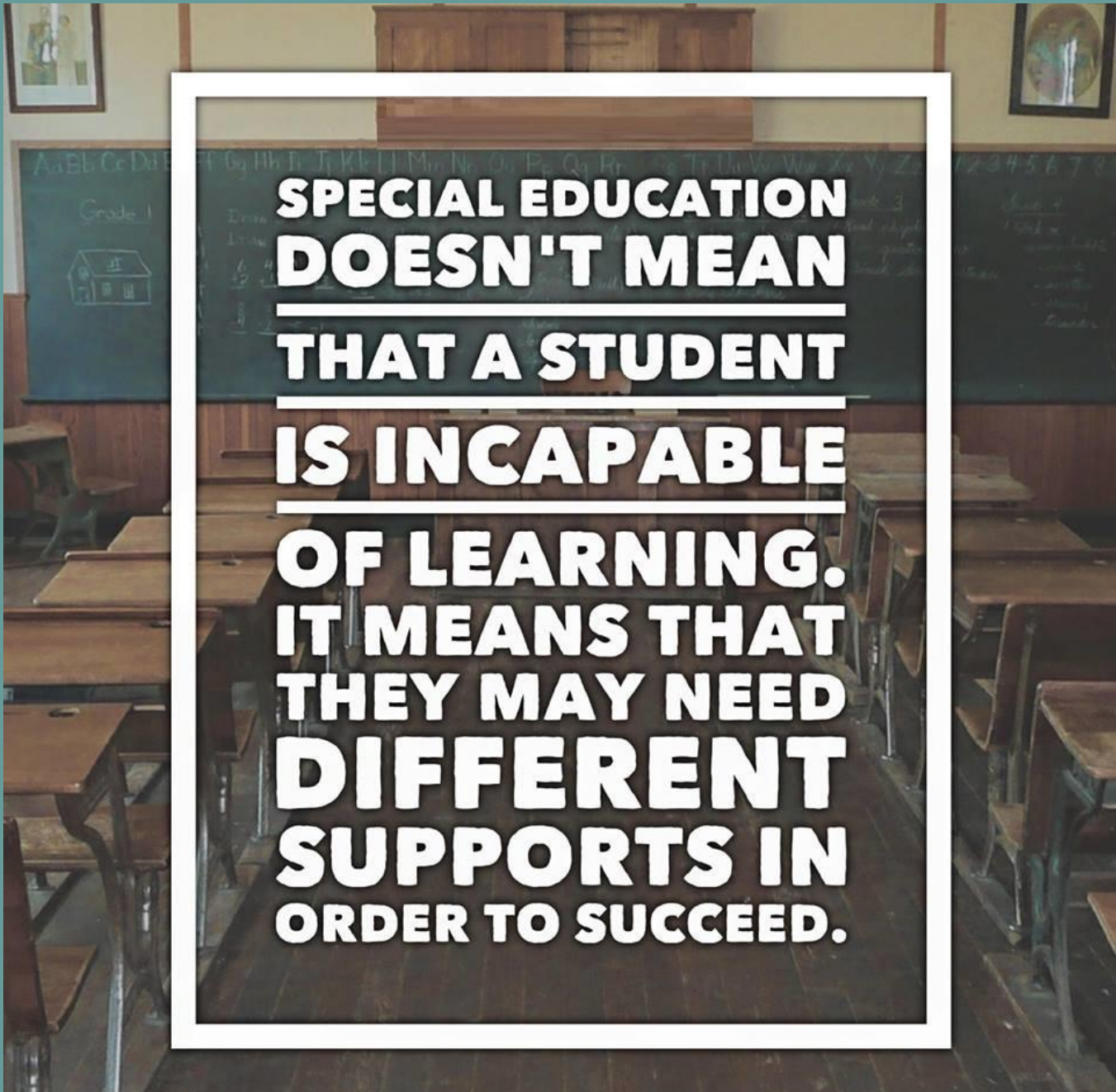
- How can educators avoid burn-out?
- What are some strategies that help educators be resilient?





Intervention & Assessment

- How and why is early intervention important?
- What is RTI and how does it work?
- As a general educator, what should I do if I think a student would benefit from a special education assessment?
- Please provide an example of an accommodation or modification that can be made for a student with special needs.

A photograph of a classroom with wooden desks and a chalkboard. The chalkboard has various educational content, including the alphabet, numbers, and a drawing of a house. A large white text box is centered over the image, containing a message about special education.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
DOESN'T MEAN
THAT A STUDENT
IS INCAPABLE
OF LEARNING.
IT MEANS THAT
THEY MAY NEED
DIFFERENT
SUPPORTS IN
ORDER TO SUCCEED.**

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Students with Special Needs and Bullying

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Statistics from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) state over half of students with special needs are bullied. What strategies can you recommend for helping educators deal with bullying?



Bullying occurs once every seven minutes. That means that while you read this infographic it is likely that at least one bullying incident will have occurred. In schools across America, one in three students report being bullied weekly.

Take the Pledge To Stand Up For Bullied Students at nea.org/bullyfree



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IEP's & 504s, (and...FAPE, EHA, IDEA, ADA)

- Please explain the difference between an IEP and a 504.
- 1960's—FAPE=Free Appropriate Public Education
- 1975—EHA=Education for All Handicapped Children Act and IDEA=Individuals with Disabilities Act-which required every child in special education to have an IEP
- 1990—ADA=Americans with Disabilities Act
- 2008—ADA updated
- Why is it crucial for teachers to document, document, document?
- Why is parental involvement beneficial in IEP meetings?



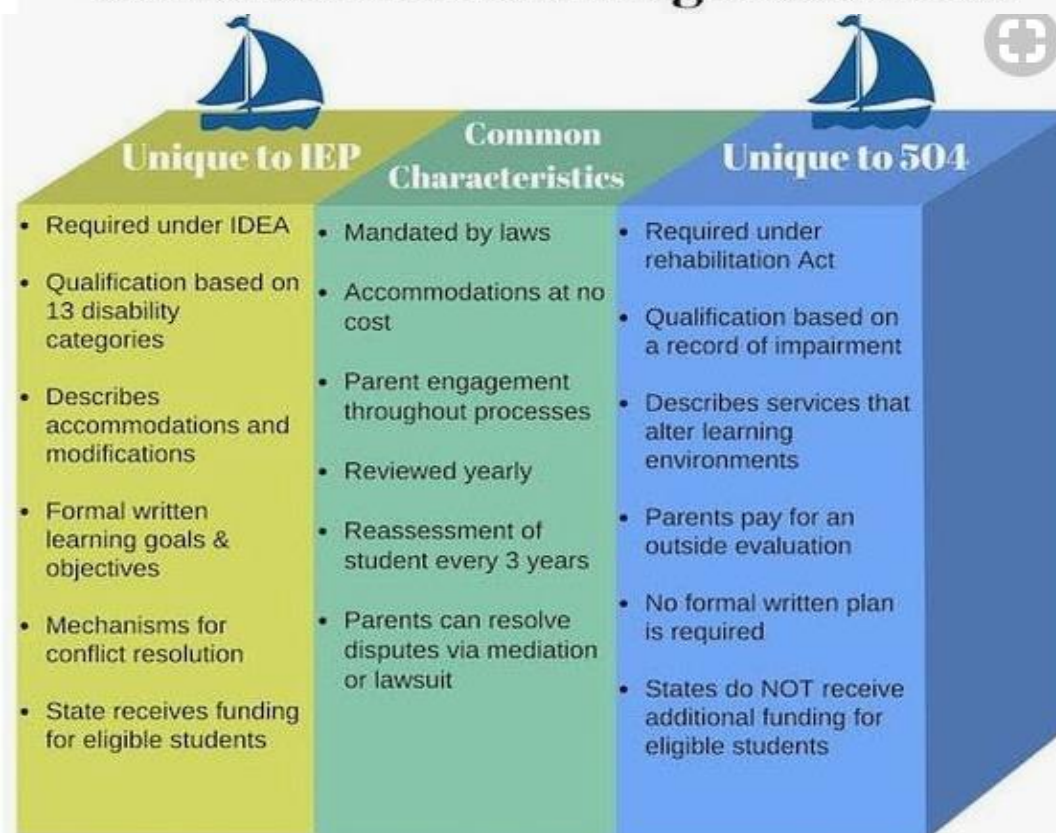
IEP

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN

IEP or 504 Plan:

What's the difference?

Navigating accommodations for students with learning disabilities



Strengths Based Learning

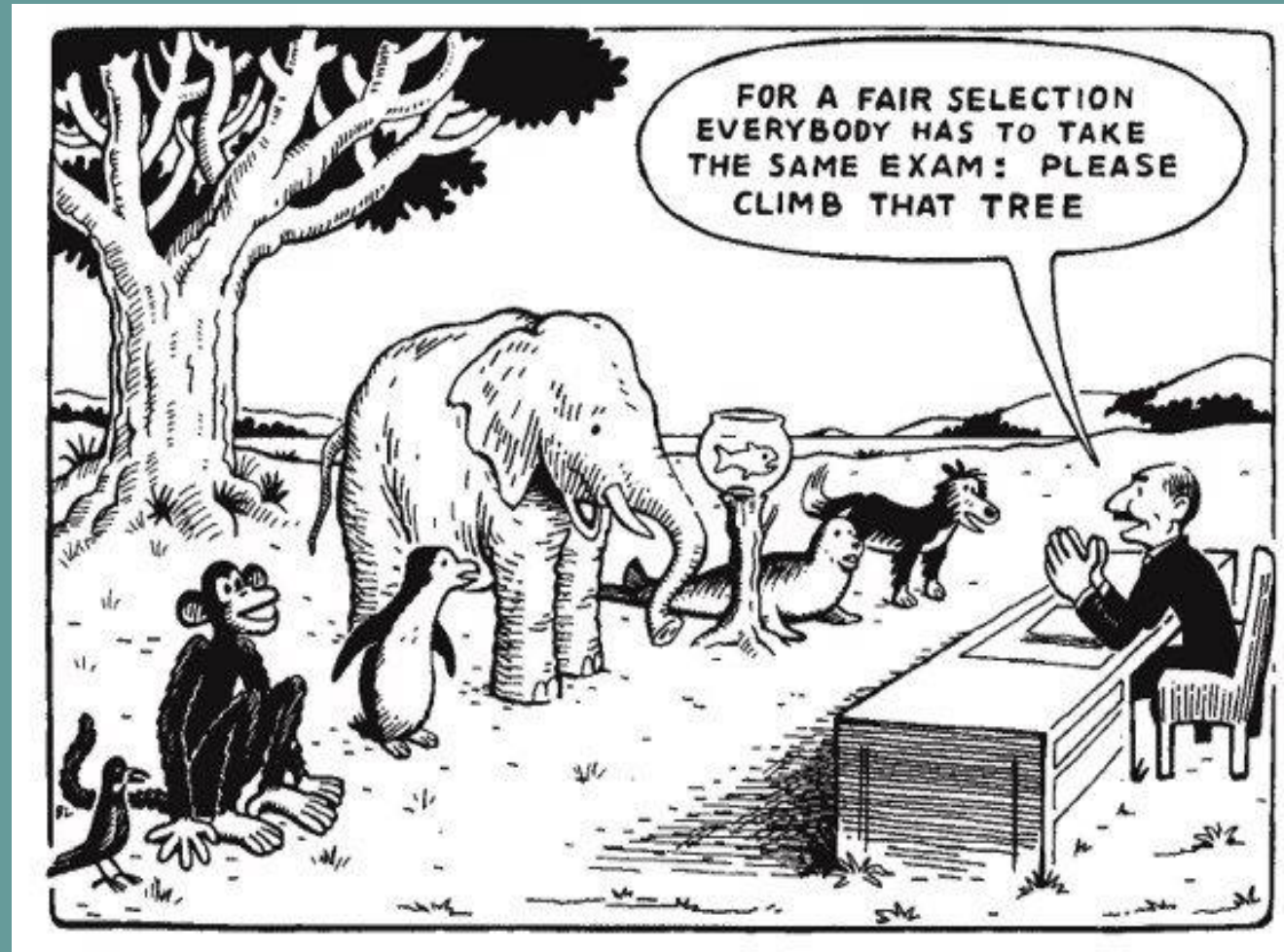
- Temple Grandin—diagnosed with autism at a young age.
- Earned her PhD in animal sciences and is a well known advocate for strengths based learning in special education.
- TED Talk featuring Temple Grandin speaking about autism.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aF4sP-uC-yl>
- What are your thoughts about strengths based teaching and learning in special education?



In special education, there's too much emphasis placed on the deficit and not enough on the strength.

— *Temple Grandin* —

AZ QUOTES



Assistive Technology

- Technology has made a remarkable impact on teaching and learning. Talk about the effects of technology on special education.



“

For people without disabilities, technology makes things easier. For people with disabilities, technology makes things possible.

ibm training manual 1991

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Examples of Assistive Technology

- Highlighters
- Color-Coded Files
- Books on Tape
- Pencil Grips
- Colored Overlays
- Raised-Line Paper
- Magnifiers
- Tactile letters
- Sticky Notes
- Software or apps that can read text aloud
- Speech Recognition
- Speech Recognition that can turn oral text into written language
- Talking calculators that assist students with math difficulties
- Software that predicts and edits words
- iPads

Helping Parents, Helping Educators

- How do special educators ensure parents understand the needs of their children and how can educators encourage parents to be part of the team?
- What is one thing you would like all parents to know about special education?
- What is one thing you would like all educators to know about special education?

Hope for the Future

- Describe your “dream” learning environment for students with special needs.
- Share one hope you have for the future of special education.



References and Resources

Slide Resources:

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Learners Edge Resources



- **Special Populations Courses:**
<http://courses.learnersedgeinc.com/courses/dl/special-populations>



- **Blog Posts relating to Special Populations of Students**
<http://www.learnersedgeinc.com/blog/topic/special-populations>



- ***Free* Online Edge Express Workshop:**
Workshop 430: Accommodations, Modifications and YOU!



This engaging, online workshop will help the participant understand accommodations including definitions and legalities. Additionally, the participant will grasp how to fulfill their role and responsibilities related to accommodations for students with disabilities. Educators will learn about implementation strategies, tools and resources to assist them in ensuring access to grade level content standards through accommodations.



QUESTIONS?

Keely.Swartzter@LearnersEdgeInc.com

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THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

