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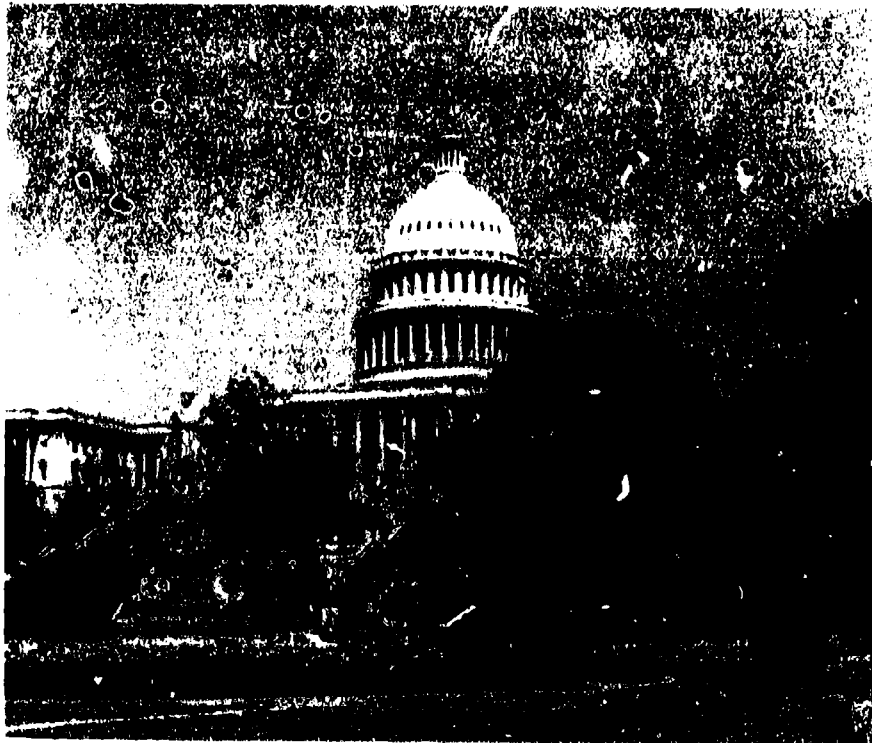
ABSTRACT

In large type and in very simple language, this pamphlet informs parents about the provisions of Public Law 94-142. It states that children with handicaps can go to public school with other children, that the school must give the special help that children with handicaps need to learn in school, and that the special help is called special education. It provides a sample letter that parents can use in asking the school to assess the child for special education placement and a sample letter asking the school for a due process hearing. It shows an example of a form granting parental permission for psychological evaluation, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) form, and a form indicating the parents' consent to have the child placed in a special education program. The pamphlet briefly outlines what is included in an IEP and describes the parents' role and rights during the placement process. (JDD)

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Public Law 94-142 is a Law  
to help **all** children  
with handicaps  
in the United States.



## ***Public Law 94-142 says:***

- Children with handicaps can go to public school with other children.
- The school must give the special help that children with handicaps need to learn in school.
- This special help is called special education.



The law tells the school to help  
your child with special needs.

This special help is free.

Some children do not learn  
as fast as others.



They may not be able to read,  
or write or work with  
numbers as well as other  
children.



Some children may not get  
along with others.

Some children may act up  
in school.

They may get into trouble  
in school.



No two children learn alike.

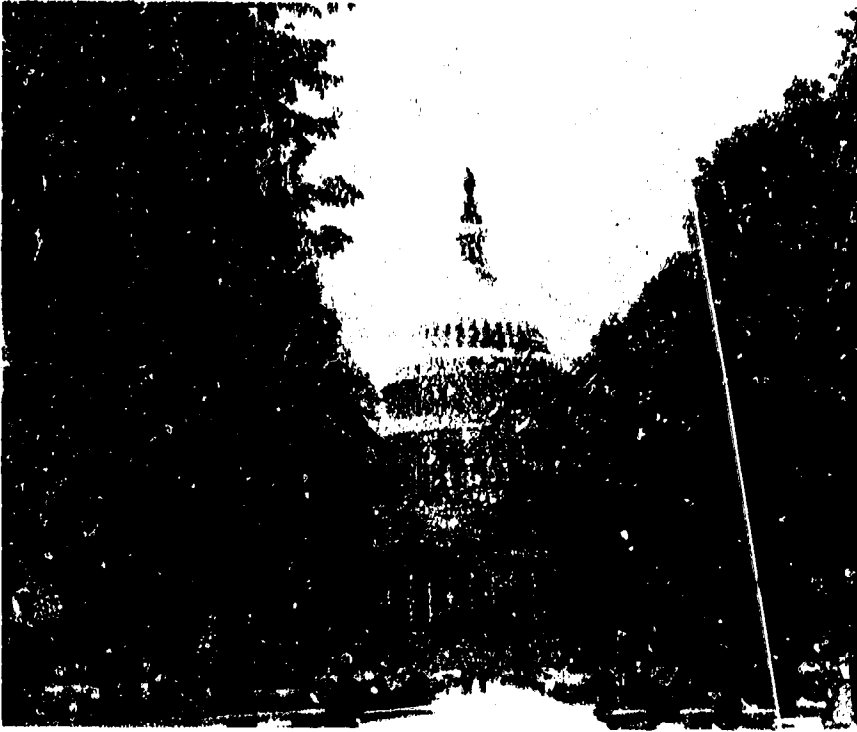
No two children have the  
same needs.





Some children need extra  
help to learn.

Some children who need  
special help to learn  
may be handicapped.



*Public Law 94-142 (PL94-142)*  
says:

- Children with handicaps can go to public school with other children.
- The school must give the special help that children with handicaps need to learn in school.
- That special help is called special education.



PL 94-142 tells the school to find young children with handicaps who need special help.

Call the public school closest to you if you think your child will need special help to learn in school.

Ask the school to test  
your child.

Use a letter like the one below  
to ask the school to test  
your child.

Keep a copy of your letter.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Principal  
Child's School  
Street  
City/State/Zip

Dear Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ :

My child \_\_\_\_\_, whose birth date is \_\_\_\_\_,  
goes to your school. He/She is not doing well.

I would like to have my child tested to see if he/  
she needs special help.

Thank you.

Sincerely Yours,

\_\_\_\_\_  
your signature

You must sign a form before the school can test your child. The form will look something like the one below.

**Request For Parental Permission For Psychological Evaluation  
And Record of Informal Conference With Principal**

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Because the professional staff of the building your daughter/son \_\_\_\_\_ is attending feels that a psychological evaluation is needed, and that the evaluation may result in recommendations for a change of educational programs, possibly for a specialized program, the XX School District wants to apprise you of the rights you and your son/daughter have.

1. You are to have been made aware of the need and reason to have your daughter/son evaluated in a conference with the principal.
2. You have the right to review all data in your son/daughter's cumulative folder.
3. You have a right to know that the types of tests to be used may include individual intelligence, achievement, eye-hand coordination, interest, aptitude, personality, and any others that the psychologist may deem necessary to complete a thorough evaluation. If you desire, you will have an opportunity to meet with the psychologist prior to the referral and proposed evaluation.
4. You have a right not to consent to the evaluation, but when you are asked to consent to a psychological evaluation, it is only done after considerable deliberation by the staff for the benefit of your daughter/son.
5. It is to be understood that the information obtained, the conclusions reached, and the recommendations made by the school psychologist shall be explained to you, shall be confidential, and shall not be released to any person outside the school district without your written permission. No change will be made in your son's/daughter's education program without your written permission.

signature

If the tests show that your  
child needs help,  
the school will tell you.



If the tests do not show that  
your child needs special help,  
and you still think your child  
needs special help, you  
can ask for more tests.

You may use a letter like this  
to ask for other tests.  
Keep a copy of this letter.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Principal  
Child's School  
Street  
City/State/Zip

Dear Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_:

My child \_\_\_\_\_, whose birth date is \_\_\_\_\_,  
was tested to see if he needed special education.

The tests did not show that my child needs special  
help.

I do not agree. I know that my child has a learning  
problem. I want my child tested again.

Thank you.

Sincerely Yours,

\_\_\_\_\_  
your signature

If your child does need Special  
Education,  
a special plan called an

***Individualized Education  
Plan,***

will be written.

This is called an IEP.

Parents can help write the IEP.

The school must ask you to  
the IEP meeting.



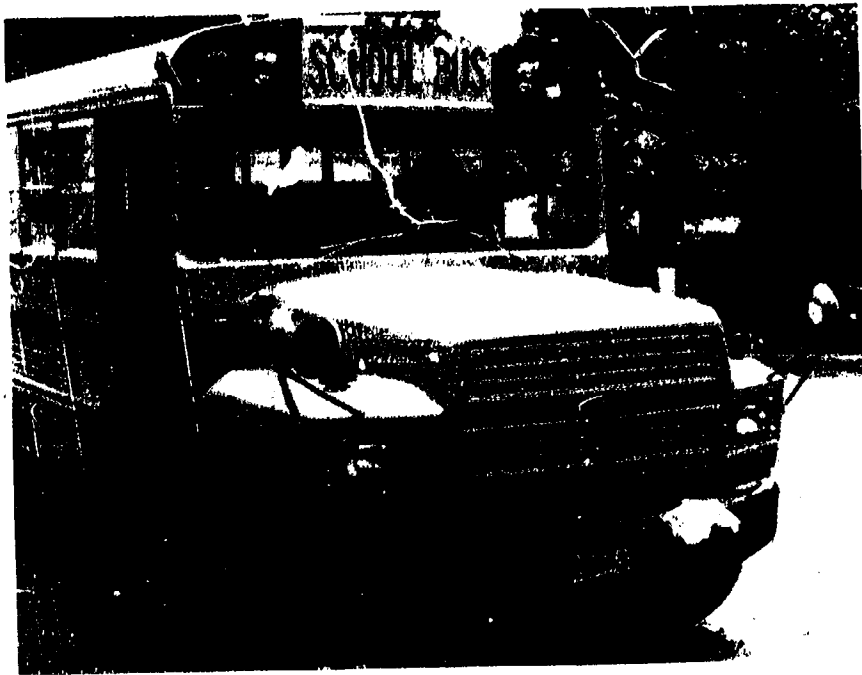
# Individualized Education Plan

You can tell the school what special help you think your child needs. An IEP will look something like this:

STUDENT NAME _____ Page ____ of ____				
SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA AND MATERIALS TO BE PROVIDED (AS REQUIRED)	EVALUATION OF SHORT-TERM INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES		
		Tests, Materials, Methods Evaluation Procedures, to be used	Date Obj. to be Accomplished	Criteria of Successful Performance
ANNUAL GOAL _____				
ANNUAL GOAL _____				

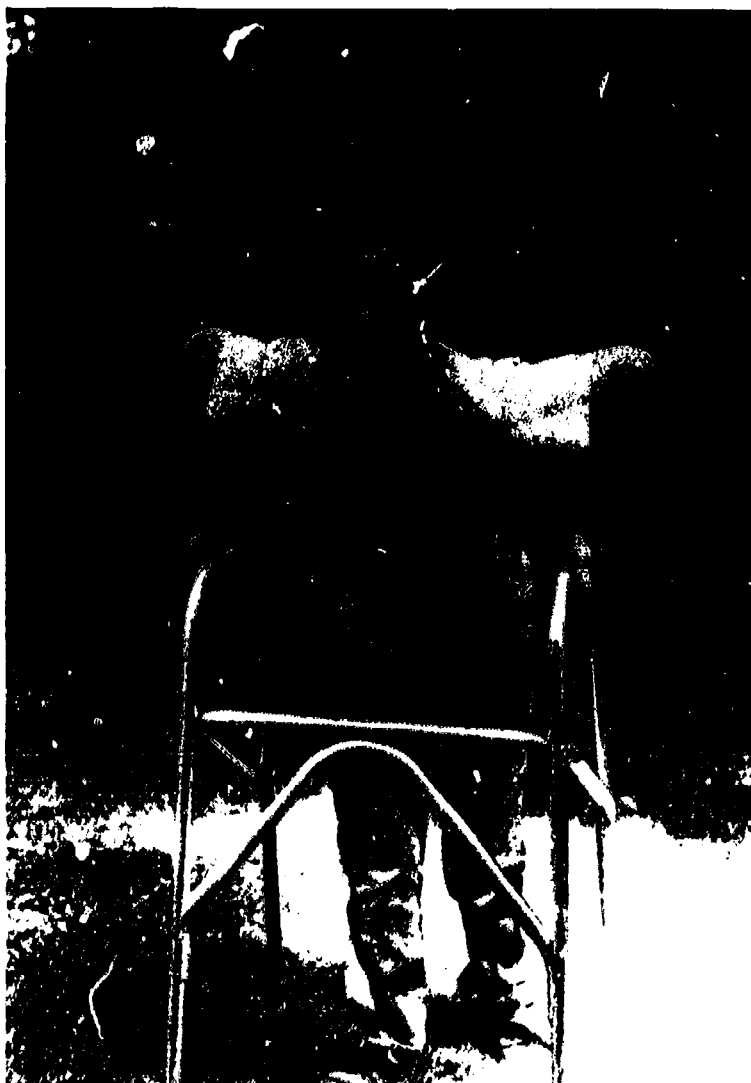
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Your child may need specially trained people to work with him in school.



Your child may need to ride on a special bus to school and back to your house.

Your child may need special things to go to school.



The IEP should tell what help  
your child needs to learn in  
school and how the school  
will give this help.

All the special help in the IEP  
will be free.

The IEP will tell you the things  
your child should learn  
during the year.

If you want the IEP to say more,  
or if you would like changes in  
the IEP, tell the school.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Principal  
Child's School  
Street  
City/State/Zip

Dear Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_:

My child \_\_\_\_\_, whose birth date is \_\_\_\_\_,  
has not been doing well in school. I would like to  
meet with you to talk about his/her IEP.

I can meet with you on the following days, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, between the hours of \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_.

Please contact me to schedule a meeting. You can  
reach me at your phone # \_\_\_\_\_. Thank you.

Sincerely Yours,

\_\_\_\_\_  
your signature

You may use a letter like this to  
ask for changes in the IEP.  
Keep a copy of this letter.

You and the people at the  
school can talk about a  
class for your child.



Your child may be with other children who are not handicapped or in a special class only for children who have handicaps.









You may go to the school to  
see the special education  
class and watch your  
child work, or play.

If you still have strong feelings that your child's program is not helping, and you believe more should be done, you can ask for a hearing.



At a hearing, a person listens to your problems and to the school's and decides what is best for your child.

You may use a letter like this to  
ask the school for a hearing.

Keep a copy of this letter.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Principal  
Child's School  
Street  
City/State/Zip

Dear Mr./Ms.:

My child \_\_\_\_\_, whose birth date is \_\_\_\_\_,  
is in teacher's name class.

He/She is not doing well in school. I have met with  
the teacher many times, but I am not pleased with  
his/her IEP.

I would like to have a hearing to see what special  
help my child may need. Thank You.

Sincerely Yours,

\_\_\_\_\_  
your signature

Other parents can be very helpful to you.

They can help you understand how special education works in your school.





They can help you with  
advice on many things

*and*

you can talk to each other  
about ideas and feelings.

*Public Law 94-142  
is a law to help your child.*

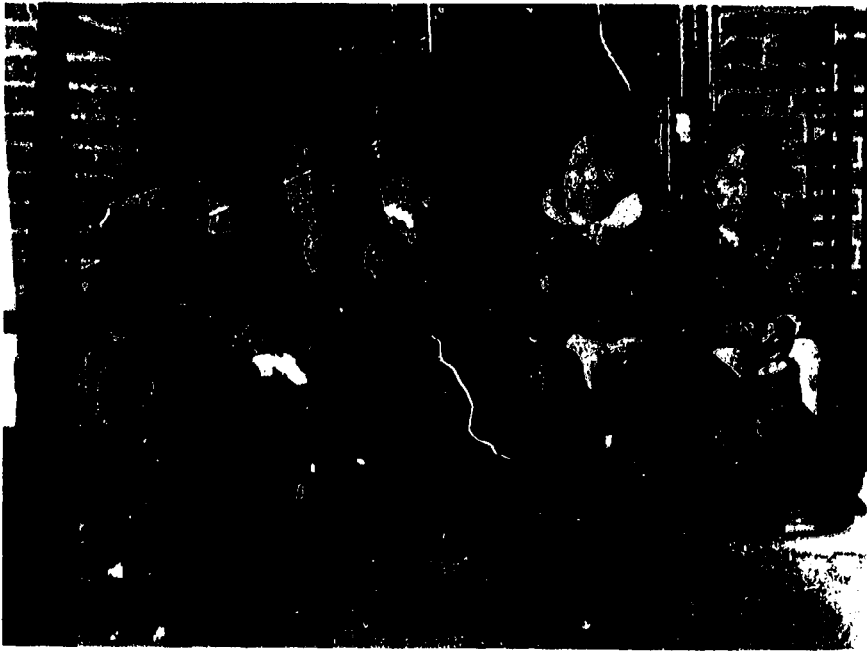
**If you need help to:**

- get your child tested
- get special education for your child
- decide how to teach your child
- change the special education program your child is in . . . **write or call:**

**NICHCY**

Box 1492  
Washington, D.C. 20013

(703) 893-6061 (voice and TDD)  
(800) 999-5599 Toll Free (recorded message)



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