



**TEXAS COUNCIL FOR
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**

Testimony to the Senate Education Committee

March 12, 2009

Senate Bill 451 – Research-based training for teachers

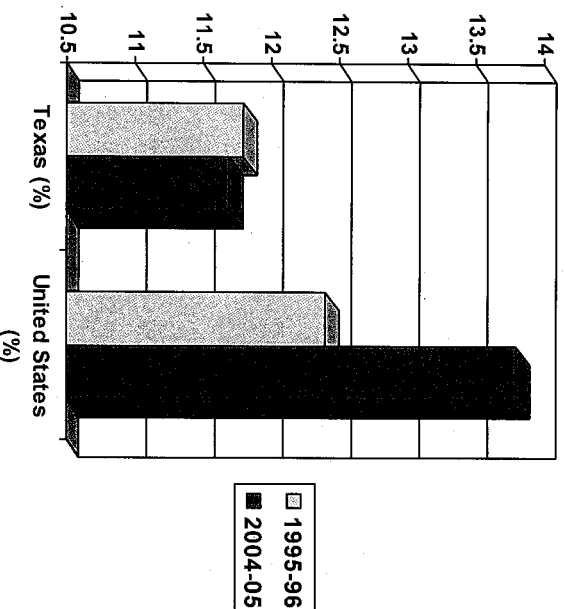
Students with disabilities

All people with disabilities in Texas should have the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential for independence, productivity and integration into the community. Education is a lifelong learning process which is vital to attaining a full and complete life for everyone regardless of ability.

Educational Environment, Students with Disabilities, ages 6-21

Educational Environments	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
A. Inside the regular class 80% or more of the day	261,545	55.99%	266,881	58.9%	279,425	64.2%
B. Inside the regular class less than 40% of the day	58,920	12.61%	55,911	12.3%	51,778	11.9%
C. In separate schools, residential facilities, or homebound/hospital placements	5,937	1.27%	5,528	1.22%	5,213	1.20%
D. Inside the regular class no more than 79% of day but no less than 40% of day	140,767	30.13%	124,790	27.5%	97,094	22.3%
Total Students, Ages 6-21	467,169	100%	453,110	100%	435,221	100%

Public School Enrollment of Students Participating in Special Education Programs, Texas and the United States, 1995-96 and 2004-05



Working for independence, productivity and community inclusion.

Strengthen Teacher Training Programs for Students with Disabilities

Teachers who are new to the profession and experienced teachers who are unfamiliar with the inclusion of students with disabilities **are in great need** of professional training for making reasonable accommodations in their instructional methods, curriculum adaptation, and classroom management which will enhance the opportunity for success for all students.

This unprecedented access to regular education is successful only if all teachers are knowledgeable and skilled in providing the educational services outlined in the Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), collaborating with Special Service providers, working with families, and making reasonable accommodations in their classrooms and curriculum.

Austin Independent School District (End of FY08) had 10 in field Special Education Teachers for grades 9-12.

San Antonio Independent School District had 93 in field Special Education Teachers, 68 in Middle Schools, and only 10 in grades 9-10.

TOTAL IN FIELD - the number of positions teaching in a field of certification. Information received from the State Board of Educators Certification

The Council believes that full inclusion should be approached as a value and underlying philosophy by which we educate all students. TCDD believes that successful inclusion requires that teacher education programs prepare all educators and administrators to work with the full range of students in inclusive settings.

Special education is not a separate educational system, but rather a service provided to people with specific needs within the general educational system. TCDD believes that all students have a right to learn, play and work with students their own age, with and without disabilities, in the same schools, classrooms and other educational programs. These programs will not be accessible to students with disabilities without proper teacher and staff training.

For more information, please contact Angela Lello, Public Policy Director

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