

THE IMPORTANCE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

by:

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In the DepEd Mission, the emphasis on equal opportunities in education has been given emphasis: “to protect and promote the right of every Filipino to quality, equitable, culture-based, and complete basic education”. This statement is evidence that the agency is serious about advocating for the delivery of education to all learners, including those students with special needs.

The interest in the establishment of Special Education in the Philippines started in 1902 when Fred Atkinson, the General Superintendent of Education, demonstrated interest in educating Filipino children with impairments. However, it is in 1907 that the Insular School for the Deaf and Blind was founded in Manila, marking the official beginning of special education in the country.

At present, through DepEd Order No. 44, series of 2021 titled “Policy Guidelines on the Provision of Educational Programs and Services for Learners with Disabilities in the K-12 Basic Education Program,” DepEd provides an overall direction and guidance in the organization, management, and implementation of appropriate programs, services, and interventions for learners with disabilities at the different levels of governance. The policy, which is anchored to Section 8 and 8.2 of the Republic Act No. 10533 known as the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013, serves as a guide for external stakeholders and partners in addressing the needs of learners with disabilities.

It is a specially created curriculum that accommodates the needs of kids with disabilities when they attend school. Related services and other aids and services are also included. Every student with a disability benefit from having the opportunity to learn and

demonstrate their own talent and knowledge. According to Allison Academy (2023), children with learning difficulties benefit greatly from special education because it allows them to receive a high-quality education that is tailored to their particular requirements. Every student can achieve their full potential and obtain a high level of independence through special education. Education includes activities outside of the classroom where children should have equal opportunity. Sport is a significant component of education and a fantastic way to make everyone feel included and appreciated. This is why all kids, regardless of their disabilities, take part in this area of instruction. The same holds true for all other extracurriculars at school, including music and drama clubs. In this approach, the school fosters acceptance while also teaching tolerance and acceptance of others' diversity in other students.

To conclude, students with learning difficulties are guaranteed to receive personalized training created to fit their specific learning requirements through special education. In this manner, students also have the chance to realize their full academic potential.

References:

DepEd Order No. 44, s. 2021. Policy Guidelines on the Provision of Educational Programs and Services for Learners with Disabilities in the K-12 Basic Education Program. Retrieved from https://www.deped.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/DO_s2021_044.pdf.

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