



Special Education

Corrections Education

The Department of Corrections (DOC) provides appropriate education to any inmate identified as having special education needs.

DISCUSSION:

Education programs in the state correctional institutions (SCIs) stress the provision of appropriate instruction so that every inmate may learn. Currently, there are 401 male and female inmates through 21 years of age who have been identified by a local education agency prior to incarceration as special education students. All of these inmates are currently enrolled in special education classes. As in the community, these inmates follow individual programs as outlined by an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Four independent legal provisions govern the delivery of special education programs and services in adult correctional institutions.

- Education for The Handicapped Act, PL 94-142 amended and currently known as Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 97)
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974
- Fourteenth Amendment of the US Constitution
- Pennsylvania State Law, (22 PA Code Ch. 14)

The Department of Education contracts with three intermediate units to provide Regional Assessment Support Teams (RAST). RAST is responsible for providing a wide range of training, consultation and related services for special education inmates in adult correctional institutions.

PROCESS:

1. Inmates are received at the Central Diagnostic and Classification Centers at SCI-Camp Hill (males) and SCI-Muncy (females) where interim instruction is provided.
2. Names of all inmates through 21 years of age are forwarded to the Correction Education Records Center. A records search is conducted through PennData and all previously identified special education inmates receive immediate services.
3. Inmates are transferred from the Classification Center to designated institutions where certified special education teachers provide appropriate instruction.

SPECIAL EDUCATION POSITIONS FILLED

10/1/97 to 9/30/98	10/1/98 to 9/30/99	10/1/99 to 9/30/00	10/1/00 to 9/30/01	10/1/01 to 9/30/02	10/1/02 to 9/30/03
24	26	30	29	29	24*

* The decrease in number represents the merging of the special education programs into eight institutions.

"Our mission is to protect the public by confining persons committed to our custody in safe, secure facilities, and to provide opportunities for inmates to acquire the skills and values necessary to become productive law-abiding citizens; while respecting the rights of crime victims."