



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Reflections on the 35th Anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

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**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is a coalition of approximately 100 national disability organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.



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CCD History

- Started in 1973
- Paul Marchand (The Arc), Fred Weintraub (CEC), Joe Ballard (CEC), Irv Schloss (AFB), Mary Ackerly (NSAC), Clark Ross (UCP), Bob Gettings (State MR Directors), Roberta Van Beek (ES)



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Early Players

Department of Health, Education, Welfare

Bureau of Education of the Handicapped - Ed Martin

US Senate

Committee on Labor & Public Welfare

Senator Harrison Williams (D-NJ), Lisa Walker

Senator Jake Javits (R-NY), Jay Cutler

Subcommittee on the Handicapped

Senator Randolph Jennings (D-WVA), Pat Forsythe

Senator Bob Stafford (R-VT), Jack Andrews & Mike Francis



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Early Players cont.

House of Representatives

Committee on Education & Labor

Rep. Carl Perkins (D-KY), Chair & Jack Jennings

Rep. Al Quie (R-MN), Marty LAVOR

Rep. George Miller (D-CA)

Committee on Select Education

John Brademas (D-IN) & Jack Duncan



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Key Court Cases

1971 - PARC v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

1971 - Mills v. Board of Education, Washington, DC



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Core Principles of 1974 Education for All Handicapped Children Act that Have Stood the Test of Time

1. Zero Reject
2. Free Appropriate Public Education
3. Least Restrictive Environment
4. Individualized Education Program (IEP)
5. Civil Rights Framework
6. Key Role of Parents
7. Investment in a high quality multidisciplinary workforce



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EHA/IDEA Reauthorizations

- 1983- Transition services R&D
parent training & information Centers
- 1986- Services for preschoolers
statewide early intervention for infants
- 1990- Renamed IDEA
Mandated transition services
defined AT devices & services
added autism & traumatic brain injury



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EHA/IDEA Reauthorizations cont.

- 1997- Access to general education curriculum
- Participation in statewide assessments
- Transition planning at age 14
- Mediation services
- Disciplinary procedures
- Establishing performance goals
- Regular report cards



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EHA/IDEA Reauthorizations cont.

- 2004- Early intervening services
- Highly qualified special education teachers
- Stronger enforcement
- Stronger transition planning
- Alternate Assessments
- Identification of LD no longer requires discrepancy
- Paperwork reduction initiatives
- Research moved from OSEP to IES
- Link to ESEA through NCLB



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Accomplishments in 35 Years

- Full access to education
- Increased inclusion in general education
- Increased graduation rate
- Increased employment
- Increased postsecondary participation



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What Have We Learned?

Advocacy is essential for progress

A united voice is most effective

Educating students with disabilities is and
must remain bi-partisan

Change starts with a vision



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Today's Challenges

- Them and us
- Special education remedy reinforces stigma and low expectations
- Over representation of minorities
- New roles for special educators
- Quick fix preparation routes and poor professional development that results in poor instruction for students with disabilities
- Not enough employment and postsecondary participation
- Too many parents struggling
- Insufficient support for services for children 0-5



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The Vision

- Students with disabilities are general education students first
- Parents are respected and essential
- System focuses on teaching & learning, not labels and compliance
- All students college & career ready
- New roles for special educators
- Systemic preparation & professional development that is data driven, research based, ongoing, & integrated for general & special education
- Students with disabilities purposefully addressed & included in all school reform initiatives



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Role of CCD

- Create the vision
- Gather the evidence
- Make the arguments
- Inform the deliberation
- Connect Washington to parents & professionals



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“If you’re not at the
table, you’re probably
on the menu.”



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Paul Marchand

Advocate Extraordinaire

1973 Founder of CCD

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You Have Led The Way