

Strengthening Supportive Education

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Introduction

NHCDD is a federally funded state agency dedicated to promoting policies and initiatives that promote opportunities and eliminate barriers for individuals with disabilities.



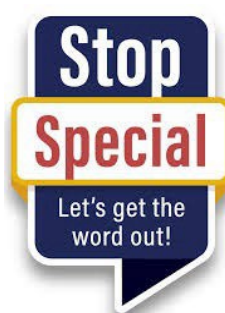
Leadership Activities

Legislative testimony opposing



- **HB 699:** Relative to special education definitions
- **HB 115 and SB 295:** Relative to increasing the number of students eligible for education freedom accounts

Authored *A Guide to Neurodiversity Affirming Practices for Educators*

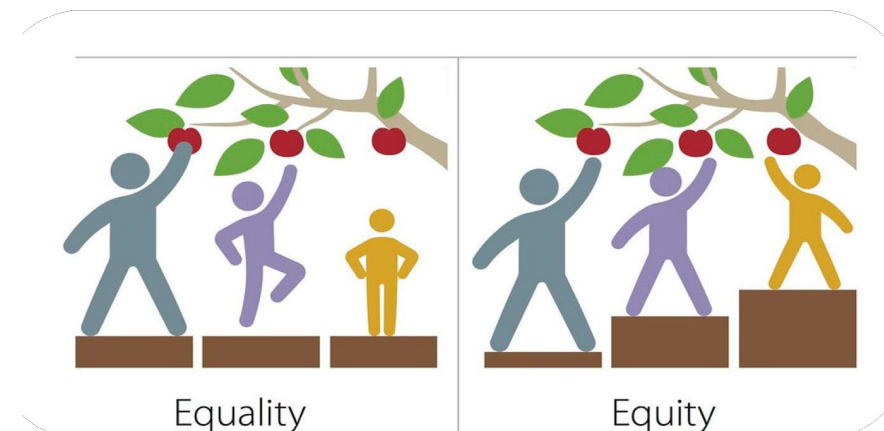


Learned about the 'Stop Special' campaign

Completed a Plain Language Course



During the 2023-2024 school year in NH, approximately 31,469 students (20% of the student population) received supportive education services



Each student deserves a high-quality education that meets their individual needs

Supportive Education in New Hampshire: Pathways to Access

- **Legal Protections & Equity**
Rights guaranteed under IDEA, Section 504, and ADA ensure equity, accessibility, and full participation for all students
- **Individualized Supports**
Accommodations, behavioral supports, and assistive technology promote inclusive, safe learning environments
- **Future-Ready Services**
Transition planning prepares students with disabilities for life beyond school, including higher education, employment, and independent living

NH Legislation Challenging Supportive Education

HB 699: Relative to special education definitions

- Removal of key definitions of special education law in New Hampshire
- Redefines "special education environments"

HB 115 and SB 295: Expanding the number of students eligible for education freedom accounts

- Eliminates income eligibility requirements for school voucher programs
- Shifts money from public schools to private schools
- Increases risk of segregation and restrictive placements

Next Steps:

Advocacy, legislative engagement, and participation in policy development

References

- Disability Rights Center - New Hampshire. (n.d.). *Disability Rights Center - New Hampshire*. <https://drcnh.org/>
- New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities (NHCDD). (n.d.). <https://www.nhcdd.nh.gov/>
- New Hampshire Department of Education. (n.d.). *Model process for 504 plan development*. https://www.education.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt326/files/inlin_e-documents/sonh/model-process-for-504-plan-development.pdf

