

Legislation and Adapted Physical Education

There have been several important pieces of legislation that have enhanced the rights of individuals with disabilities and impacted physical education services to those students ages 3 to 22.

- **Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – P.L. 93-112 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act Mandated that individuals with disabilities cannot be excluded from any program or activity receiving federal funds solely on the basis of the disability.**
 - Programs must afford equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities to achieve the same results as individuals without disabilities. Disabling conditions need to be considered in order to maximize the benefits an individual can receive from the physical education instruction, intramural, and interscholastic sport programs.

- **Education of the Handicapped Act of 1975 – P.L. 94-142 Education for All Handicapped Children Act* as amended by IDEA (P.L. 105-17, 1997)**
 - Mandated a free, appropriate public education for all children with disabilities between the ages of three and twenty-one years.
 - Mandated an individual education program (IEP) be developed for each student with a disability.
 - Mandated education in the least restrictive environment (LRE).
 - Identified physical education as a direct instructional service required for students with disabilities
 - Mandated that students with disabilities be included, where appropriate, in intramural and interscholastic opportunities.

See *Questions and Answers* for specific information as it relates to Physical Education for students with disabilities.

- **American with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 – P.L. 101-476 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**
 - Mandated the use of the term disability instead of handicapped. The Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination in employment, public accommodations, transportation, state and government services, and telecommunication relay services. Individuals cannot be excluded from jobs, services, activities, or benefits based on disability. The ADA expands the coverage of Section 504 into the private sector. Physical education, especially for those students with transition goals, should therefore be directed toward providing individuals with disabilities the skills necessary to participate in and benefit from functional recreation and leisure activities that could be carried over into a community setting.