

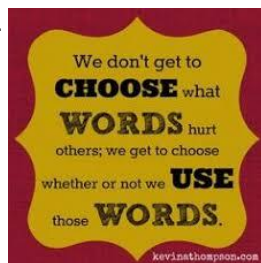
October is Disability History & Awareness Month



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Check out the www.deldhub.com today for valuable resources to help yourself or someone you know navigate the transition process. The updated website has a variety of videos and links to important information on topics such as; self-advocacy, post-secondary education, transportation and housing in Delaware. The site also has many videos and teacher resources located in the teachers toolkits on each section



Resources

Visit

<https://gacec.delaware.gov>

For a free disability history resource guide.

Special Education Legislation in Delaware

Increased funding for students in kindergarten through third grade eligible for basic special education services is now law in the state.

Before House Bill 86 passed, additional funding for basic special education services was provided for eligible students in fourth through twelfth grades, but there was no additional funding for students in kindergarten through third grade.

State Rep. Kim Williams (Stanton/Newport) was the primary sponsor of the legislation signed by Gov. Carney in June of 2021 to change that.

"We all know that early intervention is the key and resources are a must for our students to be successful, especially for our youngest learner," said Williams.

Governor Carney stated that helping younger kids will provide longer-term success.

"To get specific funding for children who need it the most in kindergarten through third grade, who need a little bit of extra help for the foundation of their academic careers, we know if we're able to get them early that they'll be more successful in the long term," said Carney. State Senator Nicole Poore (D-New Castle) sponsored the legislation and says it will have long-term benefits for students, schools, and the state.

"Oftentimes, we can't see the attention that is needed for our young children and so to be able to have the opportunity to identify and hopefully get them off of an IEP in their middle school years that's progressive," said Poore. "That is progression in education and it is also a cost savings in the long run."



Visit [It is my life - Delaware Disability Hub](http://itismylife.org) for resources and information on bullying prevention in Delaware and around the nation. Show You Care – Wear and Share Orange to show unity and acceptance. Send a visible message that no child should ever experience bullying. Wear orange on Unity Day, Wednesday, October 20, 2021.

Disability Awareness Month Poster Contest CANCELLED for 2021

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) regrets that we are unable to hold the annual poster contest as part of October's Disability History and Awareness Month this year. This popular annual event challenges art students from schools across the State of Delaware with a theme to create disability awareness. We look forward to being able to hold the poster contest next year once the pandemic has slowed and we're all more familiar with being back in the classroom full time.

In the meantime, we hope everyone will access the Disability History and Awareness Month resource guide on the GACEC website at <https://gacec.delaware.gov/disability-history-awareness/>. There are still many things we can do to observe disability history in Delaware. This resource guide will provide ideas for you, your classroom, your students and their families. Thank you for your interest in Delaware's Disability History and Awareness Month.

See you for the poster contest in 2022!



Winning Entries Displayed at the Poster Contest Luncheon

December 2018



Disney Making Changes to Disability Access at Theme Parks

Big changes are coming once again to Disney's system for providing accommodations to people with disabilities at its theme parks.

The company said it is "making some enhancements" to what's known as the Disability Access Service, or DAS, program. The Disability Access Service program allows people with disabilities who have trouble tolerating long waits to obtain a return time for rides and other attractions so that they do not have to physically remain in a line. With these changes, Disney says that people will be able to enroll up to 30 days before their arrival through a live video chat with a cast member. At that time, individuals will also be able to select two experiences per day through the DAS Advance planning option and they will get a one-hour return window for those activities on the day of their visit.

In addition, the Disability Access Service program will be tweaked to allow visitors to get a return time for rides and other experiences via an app rather than having to go to each attraction or a kiosk.

The company is doing away with its FastPass system, a free offering that allows visitors to skip the line for a limited number of attractions, in favor of a fee-based model. Disney is also launching a digital tool called Disney Genie that's designed to offer a personalized itinerary complete with current and expected wait times for attractions.

"Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties." –Helen Keller