



Disability Awareness



Presenter: Kim Thompson 2026-2027 School Year



Objectives

- Become familiar with the characteristics of the various disability categories
- Identify different strategies that can be used in the class in the classroom with students with disabilities
- Become familiar with key concepts related to the education of students with disabilities
- Develop an awareness of personal beliefs about individuals with disabilities
- Disabled people are “people first”
- Examine and Discuss Ableism
- Examine and discuss disability culture

Disability Defined

- **The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** has a three-part definition of *disability*. Under ADA, an individual with a disability is a person who:
 - (1) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
 - (2) has a record of such an impairment;
 - (3) is regarded as having such an impairment.
- **IDEA:** Child with a disability evaluated in accordance with Sec. 300.304 through 300.311 by reason thereof, needs special education and related services.
- **Legal :** The lack of competent physical and mental faculties; the absence of legal capability to perform an act. The term disability usually signifies an incapacity to exercise all the legal rights ordinarily possessed by an average person
- Disability" under **Social Security** is based on your inability to work. **Social Security pays only for total disability.**

Activity : Special Education Acronym

What does _____ stand for?

- FERPA?
- HIPAA?
- ADA?
- P
- FAPE?
- IDEA?
- IEP?
- LRE?

American Community Survey

- **Sensory Disability** Conditions that include blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment.
- **Physical Disability** Conditions that substantially limit one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying.
- **Mental Disability** Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, the person has difficulty learning, remembering or concentrating.
- **Self-care Disability** Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, the person has difficulty dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home.
- **Go-outside-home Disability** Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, the person has difficulty going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office.
- **Employment Disability** Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, the person has difficulty working at a job or business.

The Disability Categories:

1. Autism
2. Deafness
3. Deaf-blindness
4. Emotional Disturbance
5. Hearing Impaired
6. Learning Disability
7. Individual with an Intellectual Disability
8. Multiple Disabilities
9. Orthopedic Impairment
10. Other Health Impairment
11. Speech or language Impairment
12. Traumatic Brain Injury
13. Visual Impairment including Blindness

Causes of Disabilities

- **Prenatal**

- Genetic syndromes (e.g., Down syndrome and Fragile X syndrome)
- Inborn errors of metabolism
- Brain malformation (e.g., microcephaly)
- Maternal disease (e.g., placental disease)
- Environmental influences (e.g., alcohol, other drugs, toxins, teratogens)

- **Perinatal**

- Labor and delivery–related events (leading to neonatal encephalopathy)
- Anoxia at birth

- **Postnatal**

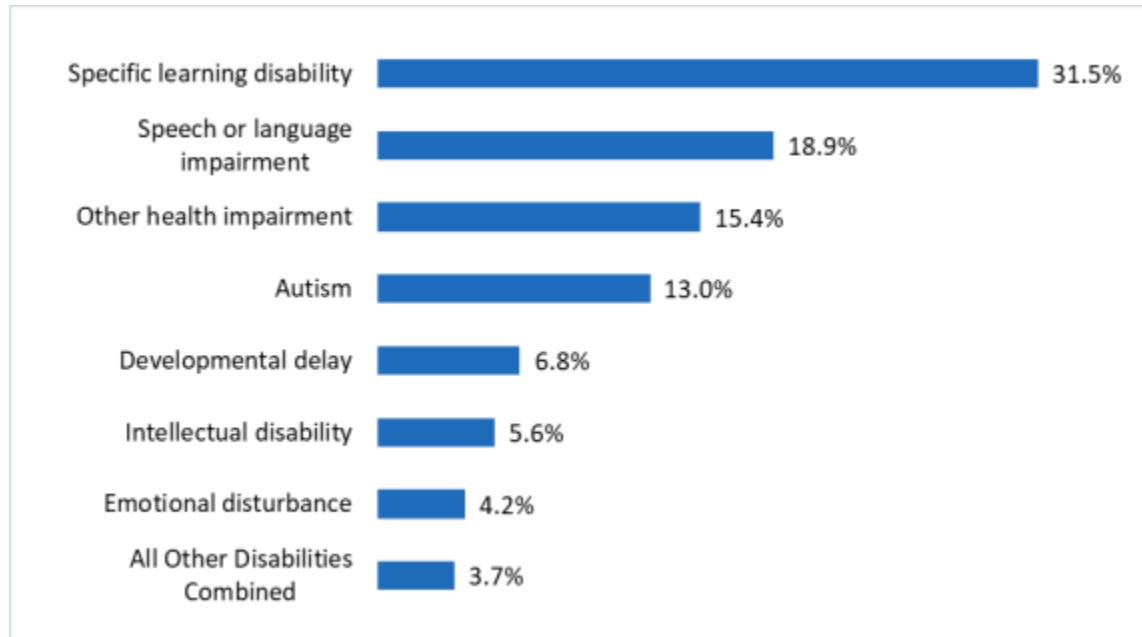
- Hypoxic ischemic injury
- Traumatic brain injury
- Infections
- Demyelinating disorders
- Seizure disorders (e.g., infantile spasms)
- Severe and chronic social deprivation
- Toxic metabolic syndromes and intoxications (e.g., lead, mercury)

Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

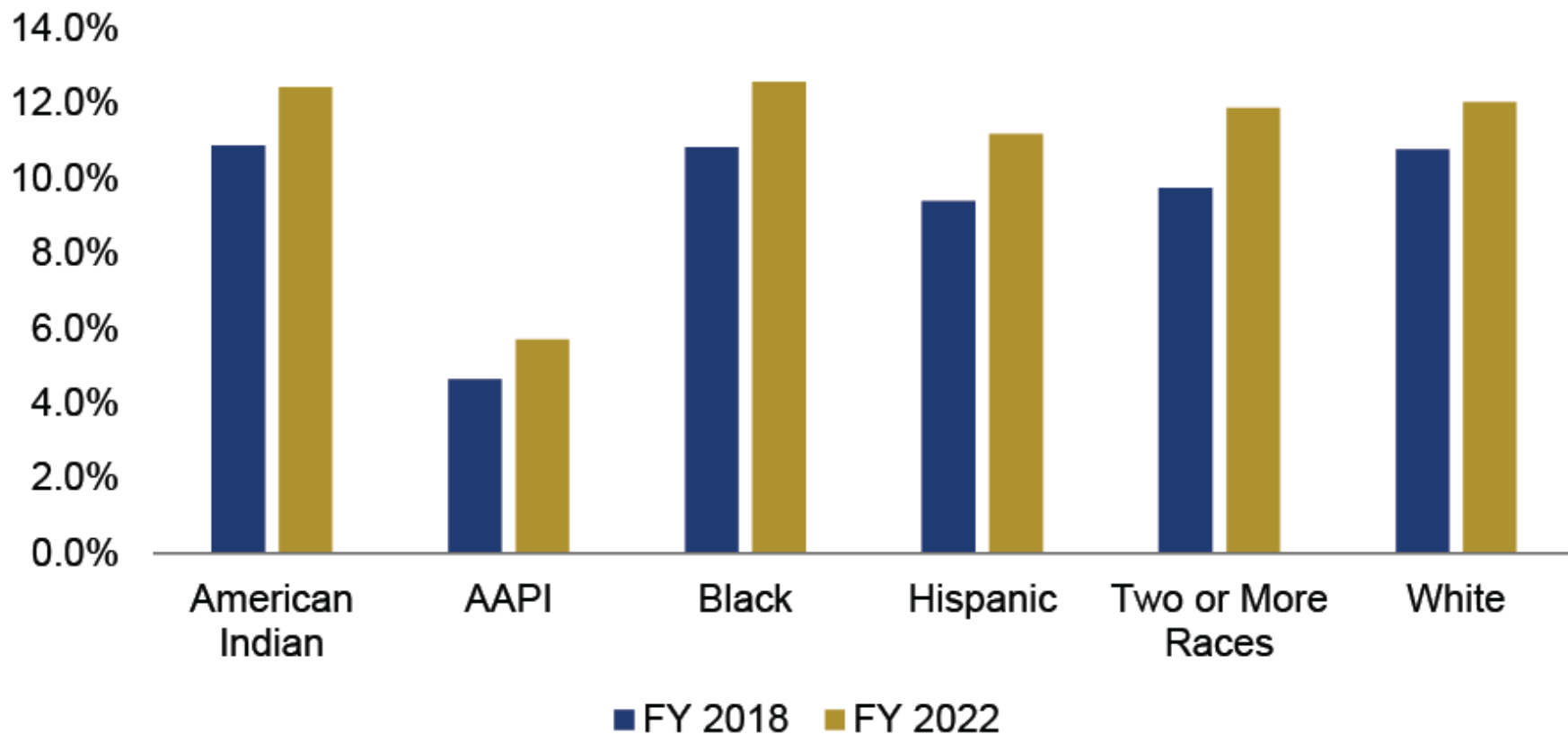
Eligibility

- **The Question:** Does the child's disability adversely affect educational performance?
- To be eligible for a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) under the IDEA, the child must have a disability and must need special education and related services.
- A child with a disability is not automatically eligible for special education and related services under IDEA.
- **Other health Impairment:** means having limited strength, vitality, or alertness, including heightened alertness to environmental stimuli, that results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment, that ... is due to chronic or acute health problems (such as ... attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.)
- If the child has a disability but does not need special education services, the child may be entitled to protections under **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.**

Number of Children on Disability Ages 3-21 Served under IDEA 2021-2022 School Year



***Students with Disabilities as Percentage of Enrollment, By Race
(FY 2018 and FY 2022)***



Source: Georgia Department of Education. (2022). Federal Data Reports.

Activity: Oh Really!

1. People with disabilities are more comfortable "with their own kind"?
2. All persons who have a disability are chronically ill or sick?
3. People with disabilities are brave and courageous?
4. Non-disabled people are obligated to "take care of" their fellow citizens with disabilities?
5. The lives of people with disabilities are totally different from those of non-disabled people?

Oh Really (cont'd)

6. People with disabilities always need help?
7. Wheelchair use is confining; users of wheelchairs are "wheelchair bound"?
8. All person with hearing disabilities can read lips?
9. People who are blind acquire a sixth sense?
10. People who have a mental illness are violent?
11. People with disabilities share the same basic needs that every human has including the need to feel productive and useful?

Categories: Labels

Severe disabilities

Learning disabilities

Physical disabilities

How are you labeled?

1) At home?



2) At work



3) By Friends



4) Socially



5) Politically



Exceptionalities/Disabilities

- **Intellectual:** Both ends of the IQ spectrum
- **Communicative:** Students with special learning disabilities or speech and learning impairments
- **Sensory:** Students with auditory or visual disabilities
- **Behavioral:** Students who have emotional problems or anti-social behavior
- **Physical:** Students with orthopedic or mobility disabilities.
- **Multiple:** students have a combination of conditions, such as orthopedically challenged and visually impaired

Curriculum modifications/adaptations

1. Quantity: Reduce the number of problems
2. Time-adapt: Give short breaks
3. Level of Support: Peer buddies
4. In-put: Concrete examples
5. Difficulty: Calculator for math problems
6. Output: Verbal vs. written response
7. Participation:
8. Alternate Goals
9. Substitute Curriculum

Classroom Accommodations

- **Presentation:** Students with hearing, visual, or learning disability
- **Response:** Students with visual or hearing impairments, and organizational problems
- **Settings:** Students who are easily distracted
- **Timing/Scheduling:** Students who may need more time processing information, help manage time, may need breaks throughout the class or test

Modification(s)

An adjustment to an assignment or a test that changes the standard or what the test or assignment is supposed to measure.

Examples:

1. A student completing work on *part* of a standard or assignment
2. A student completing an alternate assignment that is more easily achievable than the standard assignment.

Video: Finding Dory Trailer

- What disabilities do the characters have in “Finding Nemo/Dory”?



Kids Who Are Different by Digby Wolfe



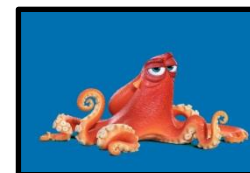
Here's to the kids who are different,
The kids who don't always get A's,
The kids who have ears twice the size of their peers',
And noses that go on for days . . .



Here's to the kids who are different,
The kids they call crazy or dumb,
The kids who don't fit,
with the guts and the grit,
Who dance to a different drum . . .



Here's to the kids who are different,
The kids with the mischievous streak,
For when they have grown, as history's shown,
It's their difference that makes them unique.





August 2, 2017

I give permission for Connie Long
to use my daughter Amanda's
poems and picture for Professional
Development training for the
Springfield School System.

Andrea Reyes

Individual by Amanda Marrero

I am slow, but in my own way fast

I am weak, but also strong

I am me, through love, pain, heartache

I am the individual only I can be

I am strange crazy and fun!

Because I'm loved. For people that understand me

For I am me and that is all I've ever tried to be

Love me for who I am, not for what I pretend

We are individuals and individuals we stand

We are the Life Skills Kids

Together we stand.

Unique, Loved and Unbeatable

Do not pity us, For we are strong

We are fighters all!

We are the Life Skills Kids of Massachusetts

And we shall not fall.

We are individuals

We All!

Dory's Parents

- They worry about her future.
- They teach her life skills that she will need.
- They are protective about Dory and her safety (“Watch for the undertow!”).
- They accept Dory for who she is and love her unconditionally.

Personal Reflections on Disabilities

1. What are your first memories of a person with disabilities?
2. What do you remember being told about people with disabilities?
3. How have these experiences and/or perceptions shaped your thinking today?

Disability Awareness: The Big Picture

1. Ableism

Ableism

Academic Definition:

Ableism is a form of discrimination or prejudice against individuals with physical, mental, or developmental disabilities that is characterized by the belief that these individuals need to be fixed or cannot function as full members of society (Castañeda & Peters, 2000).



2. Disability Culture

“Being Deaf is not a disability. Deaf is a Culture. We have our own Language,”



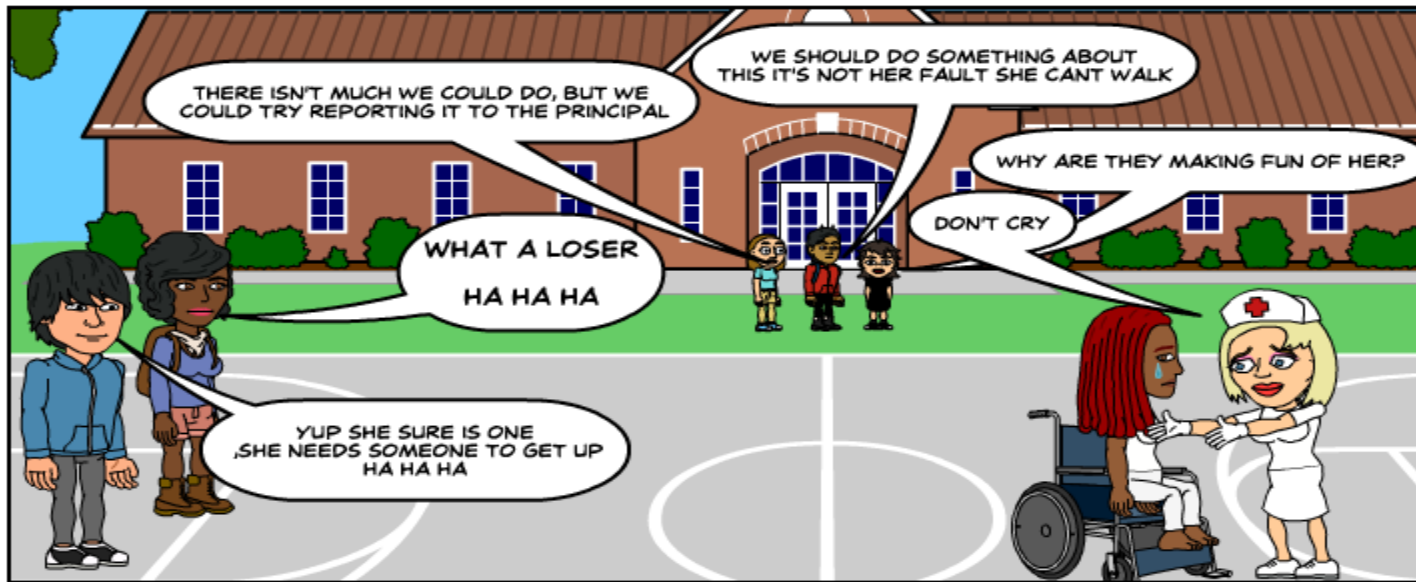
3. People First

Ableism (Able-ism)

Discrimination or prejudice against people who have disabilities.

Form of prejudice that is common in society and schools but is often unrecognized or overlooked.

Better or superior not to have a disability than to have one and that it is better to do things in way that non-disabled people do.



Combating Ableism

- Ability Awareness
- Disability content in curriculum and school activities
- School staff in-service
- Disability literature
- Use of role models
- Hiring teachers with disabilities

Video: Me and Tanja Dancing

- Thoughts?
- How does it relate to ableism?
- How does it make you think about your student's potential as adults?

Disability Culture by Steven E. Brown

People with disabilities have forged a group identity. We share a common history of oppression and a common bond of resilience. **We generate art, music, literature, and other expressions of our lives and our culture, infused from our experience of disability.** Most importantly, we are proud of ourselves as **people with disabilities**. We claim our disabilities with pride as part of our identity. We are who we are: **we are people with disabilities.**

"Being Deaf is not a disability. Deaf is a Culture. We have our own Language,"



The Ed Roberts Story

A polio survivor born in 1939, Ed Roberts used a ventilator by day and an iron lung by night. In 1961, California Vocational Rehabilitation denied him services due to the severity of his disability, which led the agency to consider him unemployable. The University of California at Berkeley hesitated to admit him for the same reason but did in 1962. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in political science.

On campus, Roberts began to talk with other students who had disabilities, eventually organizing them into a disability rights group called "The Rolling Quads." Roberts couched their demands as a civil rights struggle, not a question of health care. In 1970, he established an on-campus center for people with disabilities. He then shifted his focus to the surrounding city, helping to establish the Berkeley Center for Independent Living. This spawned a movement of independent living centers, which share the core values of advocacy, independent living skills training, information and referral, and peer counseling. Today there are nearly 400 independent living centers in the U.S.

Ironically, in 1975 Roberts became the director of the same agency that said that he was too severely disabled to be educated. He led the agency for eight years, then co-founded the World Institute on Disability think tank. Roberts was also a MacArthur Fellow, an avid traveler, and a father. His story illustrates the need for people with disabilities to direct their own futures. And it shows that no one should be underestimated or dismissed out of hand.

People First

“People with disabilities

are

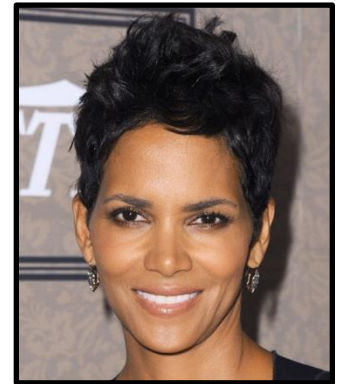
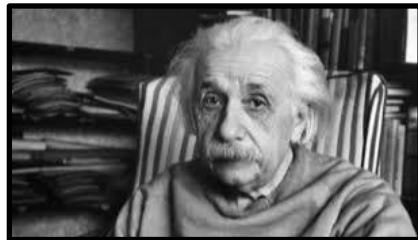
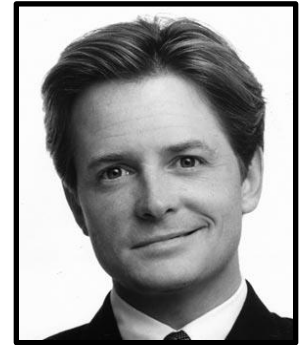
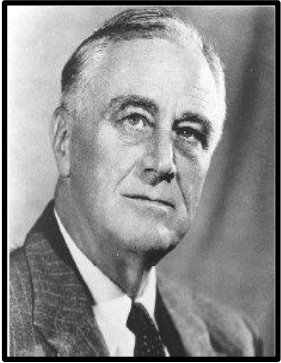
People

First”



Famous People with Disabilities

Kahoot!





The Last Word!!!
There is always



Ability



in disability!





"That's all Folks!"