

(3A) LEGISLATION AND COURT CASES FROM TDSJ2E

Important Twentieth- Century Federal Legislation and Court Cases for People with Disabilities

Year	Law or Act	Impact
1918	Smith-Sears Veterans' Rehabilitation Act	Assistance for World War I veterans with combat injuries
1920	Smith-Fess Act (Civilian Vocational Rehabilitation Act)	Provided federal vocational assistance to non-veterans
1935	Social Security Act	Gave permanent status to the vocational rehabilitation program
1954	<i>Brown v. Board of Education</i>	Segregation by race is illegal in public schools
1956	Social Security Disability Insurance	Amended the Social Security Act
1958	The Education of Mentally Retarded Children Act	Trained teachers to work with students who had mental retardation
1959	Training of Professional Personnel Act of 1959	Assisted in the training of "leaders" to educate children with disabilities
1964, 1968	Civil Rights Acts	Title VI established that no discrimination is permitted because of race, color, or national origin

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1965	Elementary and Secondary Education Act	1966 and 1967 elaborations of this Act included Title VI for educating disabled children
1966	Amendments to the ESEA, Title VI (P.L. 89-750)	Federal funds to expand programs for students with disabilities
1968	Handicapped Children's Early Education Assistance Act	Provided assistance for disabled preschoolers
1968	Architectural Barriers Act	Required businesses, organizations, and government agencies to meet a set of accessibility standards
1970	The Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction Act (P.L. 91-517)	Introduced the concept of "developmental disabilities"
1970	Education of the Handicapped Act	Extension of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
1972	Supplemental Security Income	Established uniform national benefits for disabled people. 1973 amendments covered "essential persons," such as spouses
1972	<i>PARC v. Commonwealth of PA</i>	State must provide students with mental retardation a free appropriate public education
1972	<i>Mills v. Board of Education of the District of Columbia</i>	Determined that because segregation in public schools by race was illegal, students with disabilities should also not be segregated
1973	Rehabilitation Act	Prohibited discrimination against disabled people following Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts, Section 504 (Secs. 501-503 also important)
1974	Education Amendments	Extended the Education of the Handicapped Act and required states to provide comprehensive services for disabled students
1975	Education for All Handicapped Children Act (P.L. 94-142)	Guaranteed free and appropriate education to all children
1978	Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Amendment (P.L. 95-602)	Revised the definition of developmental disabilities to emphasize "functionality"
1984	Developmental Disabilities Act Amendment (P.L. 98-527)	Made employment-related activities a priority
1986	Air Carriers Access Act	Ensured disabled travelers access to air carriers
1986	The Handicapped Children's Protection Act (P.L. 99-372)	Allowed parents to recover attorney fees
1986	Education of the Handicapped Amendments (P.L. 99-457) (The Infant and Toddlers with Disabilities Act of 1986)	Established early interventions programs
1988	Civil Rights Restoration Act	Expanded the limits of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

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1988	Fair Housing Amendments	Prohibited discrimination against people with disabilities
1990	Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act	Emphasized empowerment, advocacy, and protection of disabled people
1990	Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments (P.L. 101-476)	Expanded the definition of disability and emphasized transition planning
1990	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	Placed disabled students in regular classrooms
1990	Americans with Disabilities Act	Offered civil rights for disabled people: right to access in employment settings, public transportation, public establishments
1997	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments (P.L. 105-17)	New IEP, disciplinary, mediation, and IDEA structure
2002	No Child Left Behind	Producing measurable gains and outcomes in order to increase achievement. Problems arise from underfunding of the mandates
2004	Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (P.L. 108-446)	Increased accountability at the classroom, school, and district level. No discrepancy formula for determining if a student with a learning disability is eligible. Special needs teachers need to be certified to teach students with special needs