

SPECIAL CLASSES FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Department of Education
Division of Special Education

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SPECIAL CLASSES FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

A. History

1. Legislation

One of the most altruistic tendencies of modern education is the special provision for handicapped children in our public school system. In Minnesota this provision had its inception in 1915, when the Legislature encouraged the establishment of special classes for defectives by granting fixed amounts of state aid to school districts for each child enrolled in any of the four classes recognized by law. These classes were the deaf, the blind, the defective speech, and the mentally subnormal. To these were added classes for crippled children, in 1921.

The Legislature has, from time to time, indicated its unqualified approval of the care for the handicapped children by broadening the provision for their training and increasing the amount of aid as the need has been shown.

- 1915 In 1915 the per capita aid for the deaf was \$100, for the blind \$100, for the defective speech \$100, and for the subnormal \$100. (Laws of Minnesota 1915, Chapter 194, H. F. 684, Section 1, Page 259)
- 1919 In 1919 the aid for the deaf was increased to \$150 for each pupil and aid for the blind was increased to \$200 for each pupil. Owing to the difficulty in the proper administration of the law in regard to classes for defective speech, the aid was changed from "per pupil" to a "per teacher" basis, and the amount fixed at \$1,500 per year for each teacher, exclusively engaged in correcting speech defectives. (Laws of Minnesota 1919, Chapter 218, S. F. 215, Section 1, Page 215 - deaf, and Chapter 129, S. F. 305, Section 1, Page 125 - blind)
- 1921 In 1921 the aid for the deaf was increased to \$250 a year for each pupil. The aid for each crippled child was fixed at \$250 (Laws of Minnesota 1921, Chapter 467, H. F. 1121, Section 10)
- 1936 In 1935, an act was passed requiring the State Board of Control and the State Board of Education jointly to prepare and maintain a continuous census of the feeble-minded in the state with the cooperation of other agencies; to file petitions for commitment and to submit biennial reports. (Laws of Minnesota 1936, Chapter 354, H. F. 1478)

- 1937 In 1937, \$10,000 was appropriated for special summer classes for the education of crippled children, a sum not to exceed \$50.00 annually for each pupil in such classes, which shall not be less than six weeks; provided the State Board of Education shall not allocate for any one school for crippled a sum in excess of \$7,000 in any one year. (Laws of Minnesota 1937, Chapter 34, H. F. 225)
- 1939 In 1939, the Legislature appropriated \$9,000 for special summer classes for the education of crippled children. (Laws of Minnesota 1939, Chapter 191, H. F. 71)
- 1941 In 1941, the aid for the deaf was increased to \$400 for each nonresident pupil, the additional \$150 to be paid for board and room for such nonresident pupil. The aid for the blind was increased to \$300 for each such child. (Laws of Minnesota 1941, Chapter 169, H. F. 538)
- 1943 In 1943, the aid for the blind was increased to \$450 for each nonresident child, the additional \$150 to be paid for board and room for such nonresident child. For crippled children, the aid was not to exceed \$250 for each such child attending special classes or receiving instruction in the home. (Laws of Minnesota 1943, Chapter 498, H. F. 567)

2. Standards

The State Board of Education is charged with the responsibility of determining rules and regulations for the conduct of the work. (Laws of Minnesota 1921, Chapter 467, H. F. 1121, Section 10) The Board bases its requirements and recommendations on the accepted policy that wherever possible handicapped children should be taught in regular classes with normal children as this seems to offer the best opportunity for the social development of such children. However, when children are so severely handicapped either mentally or physically that it is advisable to segregate them both for their own good and for the welfare of normal children, this should be done. Even under such conditions those who can participate with normal children in any school activity, social, mental or physical, should be encouraged to do so.

From time to time during the development of Special Education in Minnesota, revisions of the rules and regulations for the conduct of special classes have been approved by the State Board of Education and published in the form of a bulletin of standards, the first of which was published in 1919. These standards were revised in 1921, 1927 and 1931. In 1936 some changes in the standards were made, appearing as a revision in mimeographed form, and approved under date of February 6, 1936. A new bulletin, "Standards for Special Classes for Handicapped Children," was published under date of August, 1943.

3. Supervision

Responsibility for state supervision of Special Classes for Handicapped Children has been a part-time assignment of some member of the State Department of Education since the inception of the program in 1915. A clerk-stenographer, also on a part-time basis, served as assistant to the Special Class Supervisor, assuming the whole responsibility for the necessary office work in connection with the program, until August 1, 1941, at which time the present supervisor took full charge of the work on a half-time basis, with one-fourth of the time of a clerk-stenographer.

The early reports of the High School Inspectors to the High School Board show that Mr. S. A. Challman supervised the work of Special Classes on a part-time or half-time basis from the beginning of the program, in 1916, through the year 1923. From 1924 through 1928, Mr. C. W. Street was the Special Class Supervisor on a half-time basis. With the resignation of Mr. Street, Mr. H. E. Flynn, on June 11, 1928, was assigned to Special Classes along with his other duties as Director of Elementary Schools and Director of High Schools. However, it appears that Mr. Flynn did not serve as Supervisor of Special Classes, since Mr. Kenneth Nilson was appointed to that position, to begin work September 1, 1928. Mr. Nilson served in this capacity on a one-third-time basis from 1928 to some time in the spring of 1935. Mr. F. H. Finch followed Mr. Nilson as Supervisor of Special Classes, having been appointed May 18, 1935. Mr. Finch served from 1935 to the spring of 1938, when Mr. D. H. Dabelstein was placed in charge of the work. Mr. Dabelstein's assignment was on a one-tenth-time basis, according to his annual report to the Board of Education in 1941. On July 1, 1941, the present supervisor, Mayme J. Schow, was appointed to serve as Special Class Supervisor, on a half-time basis.

E. Current Activities

1. Purpose of Special Classes for Handicapped Children

The purpose in organizing and maintaining Special Classes for Handicapped Children is to provide special educational opportunities at state expense for blind, deaf, crippled, speech defective and sub-normal children over and above that provided for normal children in the public schools of Minnesota.

2. State Program for 1942-43

The rules and regulations, based on law, (Laws of Minnesota 1921, Chapter 467, H. F. 1121, Section 10) governing the conduct of Special Classes are set up in the bulletin "Special Classes for Defectives" published under date of September 1931.

The annual report for 1942-43 gives the following data on the program for the blind, the deaf, the crippled, speech defectives and subnormal children on a state-wide basis:

a. Blind

Nine school districts in the state (Chisholm, Coleraine, Duluth, Hibbing, Minneapolis, St. Cloud, St. Paul, Virginia and Winona) provided special education for 353 pupils, 12 totally blind and 341 partially blind, with 36 trained teachers in charge at a total cost of \$85,625.45 of which \$84,657.40 was reimbursable. (The state aid for a blind child, resident of the district, is \$300 and for a nonresident of the district \$450.)

b. Crippled

Four school districts (Duluth, Minneapolis, St. Paul and Winona) provided special education for 390 crippled children in special classes and special classes in schools for crippled children, of which 333 were in the elementary grades and 57 were in the high school, with 24 full-time trained teachers and one half-time trained teacher, at a total cost of \$111,645.96 of which \$82,415.17 was reimbursable. (State aid for a crippled child, resident of the district, is \$250)

Summer school for crippled children was conducted in the Dowling School for Crippled Children in Minneapolis, and the Lindsay School for Crippled Children in St. Paul during the summer of 1942-43, at a total expense of \$8,819.70 with \$5,000 reimbursable in state aid. (Laws of Minnesota 1941, Chapter 523, Section 6, Subdivision 4)

c. Deaf

Seven school districts (Duluth, Minneapolis, Rochester, St. Cloud, St. Paul, Virginia and Winona) provided special education for 211 pupils, 93 of whom were totally deaf and 118 partially deaf, with 21 trained teachers in charge, at a total cost of \$48,320.89, \$36,685.78 of which was reimbursable, (The state aid for a deaf child, resident of the district, is \$280, and for a nonresident \$400)

d. Speech Defectives

Twelve school districts (Albert Lea, Austin, Chisholm, Coleraine, Duluth, Hibbing, Mankato, Minneapolis, Rochester, St. Paul, Virginia and Winona) provided special education for 3,911 pupils with 20 teachers in charge, at a total cost of \$ 46,292.73, \$29,345.46 of which was reimbursable. (State aid for speech defectives is \$1, 500, which is paid on a per teacher basis)

9. Subnormal

Thirty-three school districts throughout the state, with cities of the first class predominating in enrollment, provided special education for 2,590 subnormal pupils, 103 of whom were below 50 I. Q., 220 were between 50-59 I. Q., 641 were between 60-69 I. Q., 1,562 were between 70-80 I. Q., and 63 were between 80 and 90, with 170 trained teachers in charge, at a total cost of \$391, 009.57, ;207,\$93.94 of which was reimbursable. (State aid for a subnormal child is \$100)

All state aid for Special Classes was prorated at 75%. (Laws of Minnesota 1943, Chapter 655, Section 6)

Accomplishments

The following represents the accomplishments of a half-time state Supervisor, with the assistance of a part-time clerk-stenographer, (one-fourth time) in the field of Special Education for Handicapped Children for the years 1941-42 and 1942-43:

1. Visitation of Schools Maintaining Special Class Departments

Every special class center was visited by the State Supervisor during the past two school years. During the year 1941-42, of the 303 Special Class teachers in 36 centers, 223 teachers were visited, 23 for the blind, 27 for the crippled, 25 for the deaf, 11 for speech defectives and 137 for the subnormal. During the year 1942-43, of the 270 Special Class teachers in 33 centers, 269 were visited, 35 for the blind, 24 for the crippled, 21 for the deaf, 20 for speech defectives, and 163 for the subnormal.

At the time of each visit in the field, conferences concerning the conduct and improvement of local and state programs were held with each teacher, principal, supervisor, or superintendent responsible for the program in that particular center.

Office Responsibilities Relating to Special Classes

Regular office hours were observed during the past two years by the State Supervisor when not visiting schools.

a. Correspondence

Answering inquiries relative to matters pertaining to the state program in Minnesota, preparation of circular letters and form letters relative to enrollment of pupils and program of studies; and individual letters to the local superintendents and supervisors regarding reports on visitation by the State Supervisor are time consuming activities.

b. Office Conferences

Conferences with the State Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, co-workers, supervisors, superintendents, teachers and parents have been a vital part of responsibilities of the Supervisor.

c. Report Blanks and enrollment Cards

Report blanks and enrollment cards were prepared, distributed, checked and filed.

The report blanks and enrollment cards were revised during the year 1942-43. The new card system provides for a record of the enrollment of every pupil in the Special Classes including the blind, the deaf, and the crippled with the exception of those enrolled in the speech classes. Heretofore, cards for enrollment were filed for subnormal pupils only, and this did not include the pupils enrolled in subnormal classes of cities of the first class.

d. Calculation of State Aid

State aid for Special Classes for the year 1941-42 amounting to \$515,673.32 and for the year 1942-43 amounting to \$440,997. was calculated by the State Supervisor. All state aid for Special Classes for the year 1942-43 was prorated at 75%. (Laws of Minnesota 1943, Chapter 655, Section 6)

e. Annual Report

The Annual Report to the State Board of Education including data on enrollment, expenditures and reimbursements for the past two years were prepared by the State Supervisor. These reports were presented by the State Supervisor to the State Board of Education at their annual meetings on August 4, 1942 and August 3, 1943.

f. Biennial Report

During: the year 1942-43 data included in the State Biennial Report on Special Classes was prepared in the office of the State Supervisor.

g. Standards

During the year 1942-43 Standards governing the conduct of Special Classes for Handicapped Children were revised and published under date of August, 1943, with the approval of the State Board of education.

BLIND

Year	Number of Districts	Number of Teachers	Total Enroll- ment	State Aid
1919-20	3	5	52	\$ 7,033.12
1920-21	3	9	58	9,511.05
1921-22	5	13	98	21,417.50
1922-23	5	16	138	30,114.56
1923-24	5	19	154	36,125.93
1924-25	5	21	205	44,064.59
1925-26	5	21	213	45,126.30
1926-27	6	21	213	45,618.00
1927-28	6	22	225	48,141.00
1928-29	6	23	213	47,676.00
1929-30	6	25	224	49,780.00
1930-31	6	24	231	52,768.00
1931-32	7	24	233	54,393.00
1932-33	7	23	223	46,899.00
1933-34	7	23	252	45,086.00
1934-35	7	24	251	52,085.00
1935-56	7	26	279	54,590.00
1936-37	6	28	304	62,103.00
1937-38	7	29	368	88,565.00
1938-39	8	31	380	103,300.00
1939-40	9	33	384	101,633.00
1940-41	9	33	371	74,507.00
1941-42	9	36	373	81,393.23
1942-43	9	35	353	84,357.40

BLIID (con'td.)

Year	Number of Districts	Number of Teachers	Total Enroll- ment	State Aid
1943-44	9	32	299	% 77,670.90
1944-45	9	30	345	79,368.69
1945-46	9	29	299	84,710.17
1946-47	9	29	294	63,705.72
1947-48	9	28	319	75,352.47
1948-49	9 1/2	29	323	100,290.24
1949-50	9	29	307	100,065.79
1950-51	9	28	286	94,507.09
1951-52	9	27	291	91,726.80
1952-53	8	26	278	96,383.55
	8	26		94,110.00

DEAF

Year	Number of Districts	Number of Teachers	Total Enrollment	State Aid
1915-16	2	4	30	\$2, 122. 18
1915-17	3	5	31	2, 511. 06
1917-18	3	6	37	3, 044. 04
1918-19	3	8	60	6, 173. 72
1919-20	4	9	75	9, 875. 64
1920-21	4	9	76	10, 383. 23
1921-22	4	10	86	17, 839. 63
1922-23	4	12	104	21, 558. 02
1923-24	4	14	111	24, 565. 65
1924-25	4	16	141	31, 438. 83
1925-26	4	17	146	33, 993. 37
1926-27	4	18	162	35, 217. 00
1927-28	4	18	159	35, 800. 00
1928-29	5	19	167	35, 564. 00
1929-30	5	20	186	36, 563. 00
1930-31	6	21	196	44, 795. 00
19: 51-3 2	6	20	206	42, 931. 00
1932-33	6	20	208	41, 539. 00
1933-34	6	22	221	39, 231. 00
1934-35	6	23	225	
1935-36	7	25	219	49, 128. 00
1936-37	7	24	222	50, 019. 00
1937-38	8	25	238	57, 103. 00

DEAF (cont'd.)

Year	Number of Districts	Number of Teachers	Total Enrollment	State Aid
1938-39	8	26	240	\$ 56,999.00
1939-40	8	28	235	85,922.00
1940-41	8	26	258	53,106.00
1941-42	8	25	249	51,307.42
1942-43	7	21	211	36,585.76
1943-44	6	22	182	39,790.30
1944-45	6	23	174	38,038.62
1945-46	6	23	183	40,827.09
1946-47	5	23	167	32,021.12
1947-48	5	22	182	35,796.44
1948-49	5	20	186	55,839.69
1949-50	5	22	190	58,796.20
1950-51	5	24	200	57,939.75
1951-52	5	21	203	51,149.90
1952-53	4	21	206	66,875.80
1953-54	3	20		
	3			75,304.50

CRIPPLED CHILDREN

Year	Number of Districts	Number of Teachers	Total Enrolled	State Aid
1921-22	2	10	123	\$21, 513.72
1922-23	1	8	143	26,508.73
1923-24	1	10	140	39,833.50
1924-25	1	10	156	31,971.96
1925-26	1	11	186	31,346.84
1926-27	2	12	217	37,325.00
1927-28	2	13	218	42,625.00
1928-29	2	13	241	48,150.00
1929-30	2	15	247	51,475.00
1930-31	2	14	266	55,225.00
1931-32	3	19	367	67,624.00
1932-33	3	21	386	68,869.00
1933-34	3	21	396	60,796.00
1934-35	3	24	396	71,376.00
1935-36	3	25	415	87,308.00
1936-37	3	27	416	88,055.00
1937-38	4	27	470	96,943.00
1938-39	4	27	508	108,275.00
1939-40	4	27	482	106,526.00
1940-41	4	27	495	102,681.00
1941-42	4	26	480	98,915.95
1942-43	4	4 1/2	390	82,415.17

CRIPPLED (cont'd.)

Year	Number of Districts	Number of Teachers	Total Enrolled	State Aid
1943-44	5	25	355	\$ 76,765.10
1944-45	5	25	385	78,093.95
1945-46	5	26	341	31,882.75
1946-47	5	30	342	57,109.65
1947-48	5	34	430	73,464.45
1948-49	5	36	529	138,743.60
1949-50 Classes in Schools	4	27	420	131,276.71
1949-50 Instruction in Homes, Hospitals and Sanatoriums	81	141	554	82,296.82
1950-51 Classes in Schools	4	30	451	130,166.40
1950-51 Instruction in Homes, Hospitals and Sanatoriums	127	207	782	124,743.43
1951-52 Classes in Schools	4	28	456	143,509.40
1951-52 Instruction in Homes, Hospitals and Sanatorium	123	219	885	146,248.65
1952-53 Classes in Schools	4	31	485	155,493.36
1952-53 Instruction in Homes, Hospitals and Sanatoriums	188	342	1,292	205,924.87

1954-55 Home Instruction 194 413

SPEECH DEFECTIVES

Year	Number of Districts	Number of Teachers	Total Enrollment	State Aid
1915-16	3		206	\$ 4 , 782, 00
1916-17	3	7	291	6, 898. 26
1917-18	3	6	266	5, 124. 25
1918-19	4	7	362	7, 632. 74
1919-20	5	6	344	8, 561. 94
1920-21	4	7	397	10, 500. 00
1921-22	4	11	894	16, 500. 00
1922-23	4	14	1, 171	21, 000. 00
1923-24	4	13	1, 273	19, 334. 09
1924-25	4	15	1, 993	22, 500. 00
1925-26	4	17	2, 438	25, 500. 00
1926-27	4	18	2, 779	24, 300. 00
1927-26	4	18	3, 733	24, 300. 00
19238-29	7	19	3, 852	25, 650. 00
1929-30	7	20	4, 179	26, 360. 00
1930-31	8	20	3, 797	27, 000. 00
1931-32	9	21	3, 711	27, 888. 00
1932-33	10	22	4, 093	28, 813. 00
1933-34	10	22	4, 100	28, 802. 00
1934-3 5	11	24	4, 150	33, 344. 00
193. --36	11	28	4, 431	40, 253. 00
1936-37	12	31	4, 640	45, 183, 00
1937-38	13	35	4, 486	52, 500. 00

SPEECH DEFECTIVES

Year	Number or Districts	Number of Teachers	Total Enrollment	State Aid
1938-39	13	35	4, 693	\$ 51,527.00
1939-40	15	33	4, 630	47,331.00
1940-41	15	33	4, 529	47,646.00
1941-42	14	32	4, 769	46,205.97
1942-43	12	20	3, 911	29,345.46
1943-44	10	22	2, 401	31,372.91
1944-45	9	20	2, 379	29,800.00
1945-46	9	23	2, 543	41,123.09
1943-47	12	25	2, 717	37,083.35
1947-48	13	26	2, 582	37,200.00
1948-49	15	27	2, 983	63,500.00
1949-50	15	27	3, 174	62,533.34
1950-51	19	32	3, 386	72,133.32
1951-52	23	41	4, 408	95,230.00
1952-53	27	48	5, 060	112,266.36
		64		123,360.00

