

Mapping Compliance With the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act

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Summary Slide

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- Project Background
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Premise

- By combining the strengths of public journalism and public participation GIS (PPGIS), journalists can facilitate public deliberation about the relative social value employing universal design to create more inclusive environments.



Premise

- One such attempt at inclusive universal design is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).



Premise

- IDEA seeks in principle to turn U.S. schools into “environments that can accommodate the needs of virtually any individual, regardless of impairment” (Schriner & Scotch, 2001, p. 104).



Premise

- Public journalism and PPGIS can foster the kind of public deliberation about the value of the guiding principles of IDEA and whether we will implement the law in such a way as to eliminate the barriers – physical, mental, and social – faced by students with disabilities.



IDEA Guiding Principles

- Free, appropriate public education for all disabled children.
- Appropriate evaluation.
- Individualized education programs.
 - <http://www.nod.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewPage&pageID=1430&nodeID=1&FeatureID=109&redirected=1&CFID=3128092&CFTOKEN=316695>



IDEA Guiding Principles

- Education in the least restrictive environment practical for each individual child.
- Parent and student participation in decision-making with regard to the children's education.
- Procedural safeguards to ensure the protection of the rights of children with disabilities.

- <http://www.nod.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewPage&pageID=1430&nodeID=1&FeatureID=109&redirected=1&CFID=3128092&CFTOKEN=316695>



Transition Services

- Transition services have been an important component since 1990 when Congress renamed the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- By age 16 each student's IEP must include a statement regarding the transition services that student will need.



Transition Services

- Transition services help students “to prepare for such postschool outcomes as employment, postsecondary education, adult services, independent living, and community participation.”

- (Wandry & Repetto, 2001

<http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/outprint/ts8txt.htm>)



Transition Services

- By mapping these services to the Web, we hope to create more opportunities for parents, providers, students, and others to participate in analyzing the needs of students with disabilities within our specific geographic context and whether the current geographic distribution of those services meets those needs – PPGIS.



Public Participation GIS

- According to the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (NCGIA), the goal of public participation GIS is “increased public involvement in the definition and analysis of questions tied to location and geography.”
- <http://www.ncgia.maine.edu/ppgis/xdoc.html>



Project Background

- I am in the early stages of consciousness-raising on a specific element of IDEA – transition services.
- Project is funded by a grant from the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities.



Project Background

- Goal of VBPD grant: “to fund development and dissemination of a transition map in three localities for use by transition service professionals, family members and people with disabilities that enables them to access the full array of transition services available in their local schools and communities.”



Project Background

- Submitted a successful grant proposal in partnership with Lana Hurt, the director of The Arc of the Northern Shenandoah Valley.
- Goal: map the transition services available in our Virginia planning district – Planning District 7 (Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah, and Warren counties and the City of Winchester).



Project Background

- To meet the specific goal of the grant we are using ArcIMS to create a Web-based map of these services “for use by transition service professionals, family members and people with disabilities that enables them to access the full array of transition services available in their local schools and communities.”



Transition Services in Planning District 7 - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Refresh Print Mail W Wordpad

Address http://204.154.87.222/Website/TransitionServices/frame.htm Go Links SnagIt

Transition Services in Planning District 7

TransitionService
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start Microsoft: Power... Transition Servic... Control Panel Internet 11:46 AM



Project Background

- Service providers seem to agree that the problem of providing transition services is essentially one of connection, cohesion and finer system navigation. By mapping available services and creating an interactive Internet map, I can improve system navigation for both clients and providers.



Project Background

- Not until I can collect and include data on load and capacity, I can better analyze how well the goals of IDEA are being met in this region.
- So far none of the agencies have provided me with either figure.



Project Background

- The map will be attached to a Web site designed to map area transition services conceptually in order to empower those individuals who need and are entitled to these services.



Project Background

- I hope to be able to use my research to write a series of feature stories on the status of IDEA in the local community.
- I hope by the completion of the consciousness raising phase my maps will illustrate answers to a wide variety of questions and foster deliberation – public journalism.



Public Journalism

- According to Arthur Charity (1995), “public journalism is nothing more than the conviction that journalism’s business is about making citizenship work” (p. 9)
- Public journalism is about helping the people move from mass opinion to public judgment.



Public Journalism

- Charity adapts the steps involved in that move from mass opinion to public judgment from Daniel Yankelovich's *Making Democracy Work in a Complex World*:
- Consciousness-Raising
- Working Through
- Resolution



Project Background

- Where is the need?
- Where are the services?
- What is the total capacity of transition service providers?
- What is their current client load?
- How accessible are the services to rural and urban clients?
- Is funding equitably distributed throughout the planning district?



Premise

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Future Research

- How can GIS be a part of the working through and resolution phases?
- How can public journalism and PPGIS enhance those phases by generating dialog about the very models – medical, consumer, environmental, or human variation – the media and the public use to understand the concept of disability?



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