

# Take Aways/Reflections:

## HISTORY OF SPECIAL EDUCATION REFLECTIONS

- Special Education is still funded at only 70% of what the federal government promised in the 1970s
- Special Education is a relatively “new” structure; in the last 60 years we have shifted from institutionalization to protections and programs for students with special needs
- Prior to 1970s there was segregation and discrimination in educational programs for children with special needs
- IDEA created laws to protect and fund programs for special ed students
- Reauthorization of IDEA brought a focus on inclusion, least restrictive environment and transition services
- We are moving in the right direction
- The goal of least restrictive environment has been the goal from the beginning of IDEA
- Special Education is a basic civil rights issue
- Many improvements have been made, but we have a long way to go

## DEFINING SPECIAL EDUCATION REFLECTIONS

- There is a need to educate parents (and the medical profession) on the difference between the medical model of diagnosis and the educational model regarding special education eligibility
- Need for general education credentialing programs to focus on Special Education with attention to Special Education law
- Need for UDL (Universal Design for Learning) training in ALL credentialing programs
- There is no “SpEd child”
- Special Education is a service not a place!
- We need to move to inclusion...but how?
- Work with other districts to make changes outlined by the State Task Force
- IEP process is lacking consistency
- Student needs, goals and services drive the IEP
- Mindsets need to change to give students education in the LRE (Least Restrictive Environment)
- The ultimate goal of special education is to assist students to access learning in the general education classroom as much as possible
- Effective programs must include collaboration between general education and special education