Did you know that *Intellectually Disabled* is the term that replaced *Mental Retardation*? This change occurred due to Rosa's Law. Rosa's Law was signed under the Obama administration in 2010; just over a decade ago.

Well if you didn't know, now you know! *in my Heavy D voice*

IDEA's definition of intellectually disabled:

Intellectual disability means significantly subaverage general intellectual functioning, existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior that manifested during the developmental period, and adversely affects a child's educational performance.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, ID was defined by one's ability to adapt socially to their environment in addition to medical information that considered pathology and heredity. During this time, individuals with intellectual disabilities were often segregated; many were institutionalized. With the rise of mental assessments, IQ tests became the norm for measuring intellectual functioning.

AAIDD (*American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*) attempted a dual-criterion approach for determining ID in 1959. This approach considered other areas of impairment with IQ; IQ was no longer the stand-alone factor. In 1967 "other impairments were replaced with "adaptive behaviors."

By 1992 AAID's diagnostic process factored in social, environmental, and other factors along with the score from the intelligence test. With this change, we also begin to see a difference in the support designed and the delivery method for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Three factors that determine ID

- *Significant limitations in intellectual functioning.*
- *Significant limitations in adaptive behavior.*
- *Onset of both of the above limitations during the developmental period; before the age of 22.*

There are four levels of ID.

Mild Intellectual Disability (IQ 50-69)

Moderate Intellectual Disability (IQ 35-49)

Severe Intellectual Disability (IQ 20-34)

Profound Intellectual Disability (Below 20)

CLICK HERE

Levels, Causes, Outlook

You cannot put all individuals with an intellectual disability in the same box. The reality is you can't put anyone with a disability in a box.

Some students with ID can function well within the parameters of a general education setting. See the individual, not the disability.

Let's not limit others because of our biases.

Eb

RESOURCES

1. www.aaidd.org
2. http://www.projectidealonline.org/v/intellectual-disabilities/
3. More Strategies