



WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Disability History and Awareness Month

October 2022



Special Education Services

Disability History and Awareness Month

APPENDIX A

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007
SESSION LAW 2007-274
SENATE BILL 753

AN ACT DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AS DISABILITY HISTORY AND AWARENESS MONTH AND REQUIRING LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTION ON DISABILITY HISTORY AND AWARENESS.

Whereas, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was founded on four principles: inclusion, full participation, economic self-sufficiency, and equality of opportunity for all people with disabilities; and

Whereas, the United States Census Bureau reported in 2000 that there were 1,117,577 people with disabilities in the State of North Carolina out of a total population of 8,046,485; and

Whereas, most families are likely to become affected by someone with some kind of disability; and
Whereas, the National Center for Education Statistics reported that during the 2003-2004 school year, North Carolina served 193,956 students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and

Whereas, research has shown that students with disabilities encounter more difficulty fitting in with their peers, making friends, and becoming involved in school and community-based activities and clubs than their nondisabled peers; and

Whereas, in order to ensure the full inclusion of people with disabilities into society, it is necessary to expand the public's knowledge, awareness, and understanding of the history of disabilities and the disability rights movement; and

Whereas, October is recognized nationally as Disability Employment Awareness Month; and

Whereas, designating Disability History and Awareness Month in North Carolina will increase public awareness and respect for people with disabilities who comprise a substantial percentage of North Carolina's population, teach future generations that people with disabilities have a rich history and have made valuable contributions throughout North Carolina and the United States, and ensure future generations understand that disability is a natural part of life and that people with disabilities have a right to be treated as individuals above all else; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Chapter 103 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:
"§ 103-11. Disability History and Awareness Month.

The month of October of each year is designated as Disability History and Awareness Month in North Carolina."

SECTION 2. G.S. 115C-81 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(j) Disability History and Awareness. – Each local board of education shall provide instruction on disability, people with disabilities, and the disability rights movement in conjunction with Disability History and Awareness Month, established pursuant to G.S. 103-11. This instruction shall be incorporated into the standard curriculum through measures that include: (i) supplementing existing lesson plans, (ii) holding school assemblies, (iii) hosting disability-focused film festivals, or (iv) organizing other school activities. Local boards of education are encouraged to incorporate individuals with disabilities or knowledgeable guest speakers from the disability community into the delivery of this instruction."

SECTION 3. The constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina are encouraged to conduct and promote activities that provide education, awareness, and understanding of disability history, people with disabilities, and the disability rights movement.

SECTION 4. Nothing in this act shall require the General Assembly to appropriate funds to implement it or require a local school administrative unit to spend additional funds to implement it. The provisions of this act are not intended to create a burden, financial or otherwise for public schools, teachers, or State institutions of higher learning.

SECTION 5. This act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 16th day of July, 2007.

[SB 753](#)

APPENDIX B

A RESOLUTION TO ENHANCE INSTRUCTION ON DISABILITY HISTORY AND AWARENESS

Whereas, there are more than 20,000 students with disabilities in the Wake County school system; and

Whereas, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is founded on four principles: inclusion, full participation, economic self-sufficiency, and equality of opportunity for all people with disabilities; and

Whereas, the General Assembly of North Carolina designated October of each year as Disability History and Awareness Month in North Carolina; and

Whereas, in 2007, the General Assembly of North Carolina amended G.S. 115C-81 to add a subsection to read:

"(j) Disability History and Awareness. – Each local board of education shall provide instruction on disability, people with disabilities, and the disability rights movement in conjunction with Disability History and Awareness Month, established pursuant to G.S. 103-11. This instruction shall be incorporated into the standard curriculum through measures that include: (i) supplementing existing lesson plans, (ii) holding school assemblies, (iii) hosting disability-focused film festivals, or (iv) organizing other school activities. Local boards of education are encouraged to incorporate individuals with disabilities or knowledgeable guest speakers from the disability community into the delivery of this instruction;" and.

Whereas, amending the Act was designed to "increase public awareness and respect for people with disabilities" and to "ensure future generations understand that disability is a natural part of life and that people with disabilities have a right to be treated as individuals above all else."

NOW, THEREFORE, THE WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DOES HEREBY RESOLVE THAT our schools shall provide intensive instruction on disability history, people with disabilities, and the disability rights movement, during the month of October, but also periodically throughout the school year.

[WCPSS Resolution](#)

Disability History and Awareness Month Alignment

Disability History & Awareness Month



From Here,
Anything is Possible.

DHAM 2022



Vision: All Wake County Public School System students will be prepared to reach their full potential and lead productive lives in a complex and changing world.

Mission: Wake County Public School System will provide a relevant and engaging education and will graduate students who are collaborative, creative, effective communicators and critical thinkers.

Beliefs:

#1 Every student is uniquely capable and deserves to be challenged and engaged in relevant, rigorous, and meaningful learning each day

#2 Every student is expected to learn, grow, and succeed while we will eliminate the ability to predict achievement based on socioeconomic status, race, and ethnicity.

#3 Well-supported, highly effective, and dedicated principals, teachers, and staff are essential to success for all students.

#4 The Board of Education, superintendent, and all staff, while sustaining best practices, will promote and support a culture of continuous improvement, risk-taking, and innovation that results in a high-performing organization focused on student achievement, **well-being, and student agency.**

#5 The Board of Education, superintendent, and all staff value a diverse school community that is inviting, respectful, inclusive, flexible, and supportive.

#6 The Wake County residents value a strong public school system and will partner to provide the support and resources to fully realize our shared vision, accomplish the mission, and sustain our core beliefs.

#7 All students and staff deserve to work in optimal learning environments supported by sufficient resources, well-maintained facilities, and **sustainable** operational systems.

District Engagement Plan: Flexible, Supportive Access

All Disability History and Awareness Month content is accessible via the [DHAM 2022 memorandum](#) as well as Learning Central

School staff and students are provided with flexible opportunities to demonstrate awareness and engagement throughout the school year



Principal Engagement in DHAM



Share ways that students with disabilities have impacted you and enriched the schools you have served.

Share a specific lesson that you have learned as a result of working with students with disabilities.

Describe a specific educator who you admire and their impact on students with disabilities.

Program Highlight: Project Search



WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
Special Education
Services



Alliance
Health



Let's Celebrate Disability History and Awareness Month!

Thank you for your
celebration and
support!

Disability History & Awareness Month



**From Here,
Anything is Possible.**
DHAM 2022

