

*Information  
on educational system  
in special schools of the Slovak  
Republic*

**Spišská Nová Ves, 22. 9. 2009**

# ***Constitution of the Slovak Republic guarantees***

- ***Art. 42 – right for education for everybody***
- ***Art. 38 – special assistance in vocational training for persons with disabilities***

*In line with international treaties, legislation of the Slovak Republic guarantees*

- *access to education as part of compulsory school attendance and vocational training*
- *creation of specific conditions for education of children with disabilities*
- *Act 245/2008 Coll. on Education (School Law) as amended*

## *Prior to 1990*

- *segregated education of children with disabilities in special schools exclusively – depending on the kind and degree of disability*
- *children were classified into special schools established by district national committee regardless of children's true needs and opinions of their parents*

## *Prior to 1990*

- *special school provided education to pupils with cognitive insufficiencies which disqualified them from possibility to be educated in different type of schools*
- *Law 63/1978 Coll. on Measures for the System of Primary and Secondary Schools*
- *Law 29/1984 Coll. on System of Primary and Secondary Schools (School Law) – up to 2000*

# ***Presence***

## ***Three forms of education for pupils with disabilities***

- ***special schools***
- ***special classes in regular schools (year 1990)***
- ***individual school integration (rights and duties of pupils enshrined in legislation since 2000)***

***Universities – just integrated education with support of coordinator for assistance to students with disabilities***

## *Form of education for a child with disability may be*

- *recommended solely on basis of diagnostics by specialist*
- ***determined by free choice of child's parents corresponding with his/her rights implied by international conventions***
- ***ordered by court provided that the parents are not bearing child's benefit in mind (Act 245/2008 Coll.)***



# *Rights and duties*

- *specialized staff in counseling centers **are obliged to recommend the most suitable** form of education (child's prerequisites and present conditions in surrounding schools) based on results of examinations*
- ***headmaster of the school may not accept a child with disability to school without parents' informed consent***
- *informed consent of a parent confirms that he/she was acquainted with all possibilities for his/her child's education – and takes over responsibility for his/her decision*



## *Special school and special classes for children with disability*

- **may** accept a child with firmly confirmed diagnosis
- **may not** accept a pupil for diagnostic stay
- **may not** accept a pupil based on his/her learning difficulties and „substandard“ performance in terms of the current status of his/her cognitive or social development

# Should parents decide for school integration of children with disabilities

- **municipality is obliged to guarantee special conditions for their education in primary schools established by it; while higher regional unit bears this responsibility vis-à-vis secondary schools established by it.**

*Act 596/2003 Coll. on State Administration in Education and School Self-Government as amended*

# Education takes place in line with state educational program

It contains educational program for children and pupils

- a) with hearing impairment
- b) with visual impairment
- c) with mental handicap
- d) with physical handicap
- e) with impaired communication skills
- f) with autism or other pervasive developmental disorder
- g) who are sick and physically challenged
- h) who are deaf or blind
- i) with developmental learning deficiencies
- j) with disorders of activity and attention (ADD syndrome, ADHD)
- k) with multiple disorders
- l) with behavioral disorders

# Educational Programme

- **respective educational programme applies to every pupil and child with respective diagnose regardless of the form of education, i.e. even in school integration – inclusion of a child to regular class in primary or secondary school**

# Educational support in school integration

- **teacher's assistant**
- **special school pedagogic**
- **special field pedagogic**
- **specialized counseling in centers for special pedagogical counseling**



## Further education of pupils with disability

- after completion of respective educational program in primary school, pupils with disability may continue at secondary schools – special or so called regular one
- once they complete primary education, pupils with mental handicaps may follow
  - at vocational apprentice schools where they gain qualification in some of the training fields
  - at practical schools established for pupils whose degree of disability disqualifies them from study at vocational apprentice school or secondary school



*Outside special education, a compensation and development program is set up for pupils with special educational needs without disability*

- ***in specialized primary schools with individual approach (4 - 8 pupils, teacher's assistant)***
- ***if they are unlikely to be successful in mastering contents of 1<sup>st</sup> grade education***
- ***if they were educated in school for children with disability, but their disability did not manifest***
- ***in form of education based on individual training program for pupils coming from socially disadvantageous environment***

# Lower Secondary Education

- For persons lacking lower secondary education, i.e. they failed to complete education in primary schools and were not considered fit for secondary education, primary school may organize course to gain education provided by primary school,

**i.e. lower secondary education**

regardless of which educational program they completed during their preceding school attendance

## A right of a child or pupil with special educational needs

- to education applying specific forms and methods corresponding to his/her needs
- to be educated in conditions inevitable for facilitation of relevant education

*Section 144, part 2 of the Act 245/2009  
Coll.*

# Thank you for attention !

