

Gaskin Settlement: Ensuring Access and Progress

Barbara Ransom, Esq.
Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia
(PILCOP)
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Albert Einstein
Humanitarian, Scientist & Student
with Learning Differences
said

The world is dangerous not because of those who do harm, but because of those who look at it without doing anything.

*Einstein from *Out of My Later Years**

- The more I feel American, the more America's racial double standard pains me. I can escape a feeling of complicity only by speaking out. Many a sincere person will answer me, "Our attitude towards Negroes is the result of unfavorable experiences which we have had living side by side with Negroes in this country. They are not our equals in intelligence, sense of responsibility, or reliability."
- His answer, "I am firmly convinced that whoever believes this suffers from a fatal misconception. Your ancestors dragged these black people from their homes by force, and in the white man's quest for wealth and an easy life, they were ruthlessly suppressed and exploited, degraded into slavery."

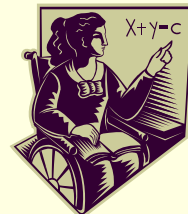
- The analogy can be made to educating children with disabilities in segregated settings where expectations are low and the thought that they are or will ever be valuable members of society is non-existent.

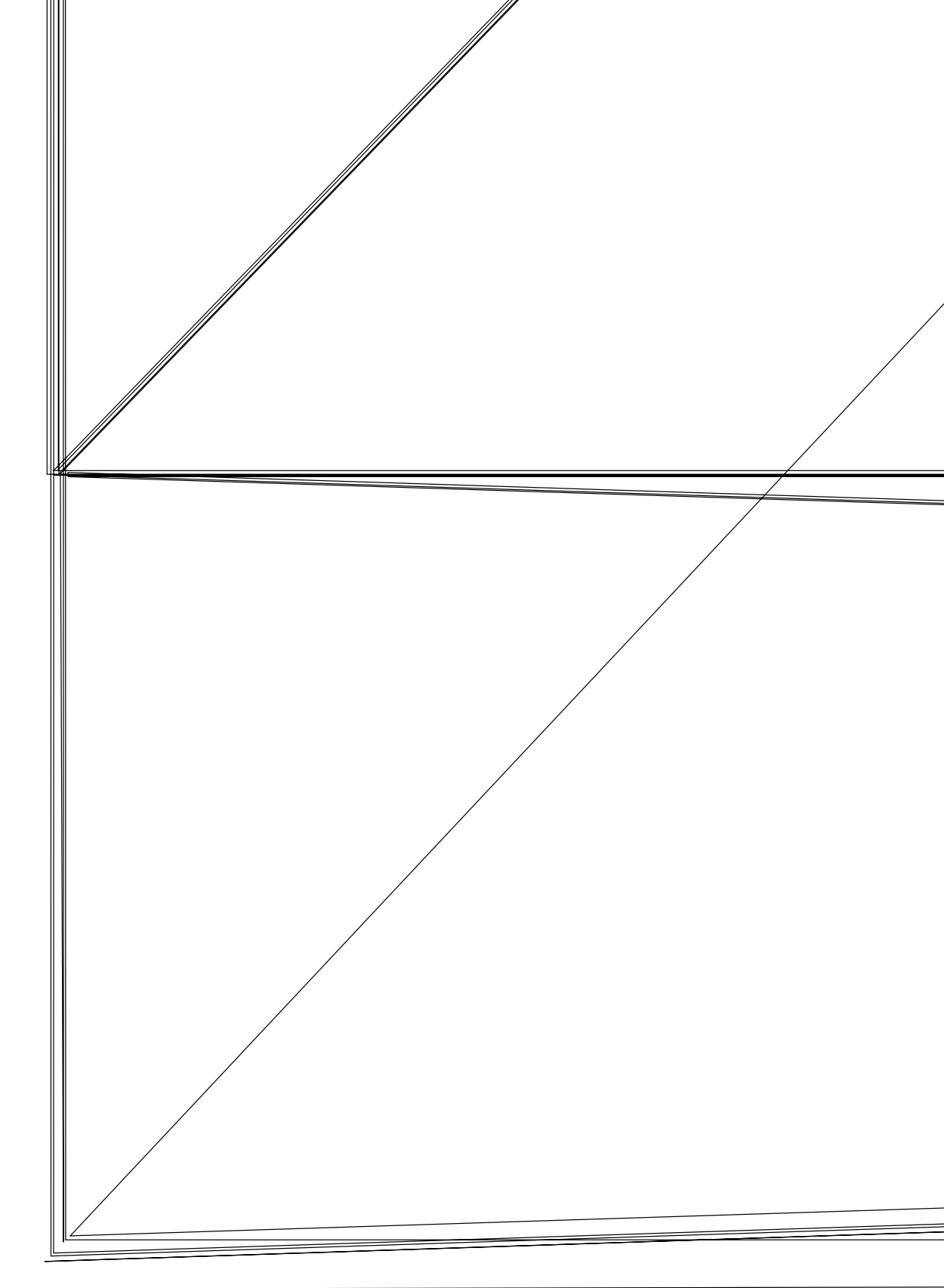
What Does LRE Mean?

Special Education is a SERVICE.
Special Education is NOT a Place.

The Least Restrictive Environment?

- ... to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities... are educated with children who are not disabled; special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the environment they would attend but for their disability occurs only when the nature and severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.





IDEA 2004 Findings

- Congress finds that:
 - Thirty plus years of educating children with disabilities in the least restrictive environment works.
 - The Parents were right!



Gaskin – Making it Work

- Gaskin was a class action against the Pennsylvania Department of Education which has the responsibility to ensure that students receive an appropriate education in the least restrictive environment.
- Who can ensure the success of the Gaskin settlement?
 - PDE?
 - The attorneys who represent the class?
 - The Advisory Panel?
 - The Inclusive Practices Team?

Gaskin is You!

1 person = A fruitcake
2 people = A fruitcake and a friend
3 people = Troublemakers
5 people = "Let's have a meeting"
10 people = "We'd better listen"
25 people = "Our dear friends"
50 people = A powerful organization"

*If you collaborate with other parents and organizations, you can make a difference. There is strength and power in numbers.
Borrowed from WrightsLaw*



KISS Keep It Sane & Simple

- Children are our future
- Teach them well
- Let them lead the way
- Show them all the beauty they possess inside
- Give them a sense of pride
- Demand the best for them and from them!