

DECEMBER 2, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 6 - Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 -- which extends permanently, and establishes a new formula for Federal grants to States and localities for education of handicapped children; prescribes State eligibility requirements, including service to all handicapped children, individualized educational programs and grievance procedures; and makes various other significant changes in the Education of the Handicapped Act of 1970.

The bill will extend the Mathias formula through fiscal year 1977. Starting in fiscal year 1978, the amount of each State's grant would be computed by multiplying the number of handicapped children aged 3 to 21 receiving special education and related services by an increasing percentage of the average national per pupil expenditure--5% in fiscal year 1978, 10% in 1979, 20% in 1980, 30% in 1981, and 40% in 1982 and thereafter. Special allocation provisions are included for Indian children on reservations and for U.S. territories.

A State will have to have in effect a policy that assures all handicapped children the right to a free appropriate public education. Such an education would have to be available for all handicapped children aged 3 to 18 not later than September 1, 1978 and for all such children aged 3 to 21 by September 1, 1980 (unless such requirement as applied to children aged 3-5 and 18-21 is inconsistent with State law or court order).

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