Perspective on Mainstreaming Special Education Students

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Research Question

What do teachers at Corner Stone Elementary School (a pseudonym) sense is happening in the classrooms as the new mainstreaming program is beginning?
Thesis

- Special education teachers tend to be more critical towards the implementation of mainstreaming in their school than regular education teachers.

Source: http://www.sd281.k12.id.us/westpark/Daily%20Photos%202005/Classrooms%202009.jpg
Mainstreaming (also known as inclusion) is “the placement of special education student in general education settings” (Sailor, 203).

Mainstreaming came about because of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act.
“All children, those with and without special needs, thrive in an environment that enables them to develop what we call the functional-emotional capacities” (Greenspan, 2005, 26).

Teachers across the nation are feeling very overwhelmed with the concept of mainstreaming.
Corner Stone Elementary School

- Located in the inner-city of Hartford, CT
- Mostly minority students
- First year implementing mainstreaming
**Methods**

- Interview Special Education and Regular Education teachers
- Observe Special Education and Regular Education teachers in their classroom settings
  - 5th and 6th grade classrooms
Findings

- Special Education teachers travel from classroom to classroom throughout the day
  - Leaving students without aide at some points in the day
- Regular Education teachers are not trained to deal with special needs students
  - Feel stressed and unconfident
- Both sets of teachers don’t like the way mainstreaming was implemented
  - They like the idea of mainstreaming though
Findings (cont.)

- Special Education Teachers
  - Not meeting legal standards
  - Have to figure out how to execute inclusion with little help from higher authority
  - Do a lot more paper work than before

- Regular Education Teachers
  - Don’t like being left alone with special education students
  - Worried more about themselves than the students
Conclusion

- If implemented correctly, mainstreaming can be a great program for all students
- Teachers have various opinions
  - Special education teachers have stronger feelings about the program
- The teachers at Corner Stone Elementary School are doing the best they can implementing mainstreaming with the resources they have
Acknowledgments

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BIBLIOGRAPHY


QUESTIONS??