

1

What Is Special Education?

Education is the process of learning and changing as a result of schooling and other experiences. **Special education** is instruction designed for students with special learning needs. Some students with special needs have difficulty learning in general classrooms; they need special education to function in school. Others do well in general classrooms; they need special education to help master additional skills and reach their full potential in school. Special education is evidence of society's willingness to recognize and respond to the individual needs of students and to support the needs of general school programs to accommodate those needs.