

ABSTRACT

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A study to assess Louisiana Regular Educator's Knowledge and Dispositions Regarding the Legal Mandates of *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*

(Major Professor: George E. Rice, PhD)

The purpose of this study was to assess knowledge and dispositions of Louisiana regular educators regarding the legal mandates of *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*. Dependent variables examined were knowledge and dispositions. The independent variables were gender, years of teaching experience, educational level, staff development, and school performance scores. The design of the study was non-experimental and consisted of gathering data via a survey instrument. The population was regular education teachers in the public schools of Louisiana. In the *Fall 2003 Accountability Summary Results State and District Table*, Louisianan School Performance Scores are listed using a rating system. From each stratified sample, a simple random sample was drawn using a random numbers table. One thousand surveys were distributed; 334 completed surveys were returned. Chi-square analysis for null hypotheses 1, 3, 5, and 7 indicated that knowledge is related to years of teaching experience, and that knowledge is also related to the educational level of regular education teachers. Null hypotheses 2, 4, 6, and 8 relating to the disposition variable, were all retained based on the results of chi-square analyses, indicating that Louisiana regular education teachers have desirable dispositions regarding the legal mandates of *Section 504*. Multiple linear regression analysis on null hypothesis 9 indicated that knowledge of regular education teachers regarding the legal mandates of *Section 504* is related to student performance. Multiple linear regression analysis on null hypothesis 10 indicated that disposition is independent of student performance. The results of the study indicated that Louisiana regular education teachers have good knowledge and dispositions regarding the legal mandates of *Section 504*.