

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

In the Diocese of Harrisburg, children and youth with special needs shall not be denied full access to the faith community, including religious education and sacramental preparation. Every effort will be made to mainstream special needs children and youth into religious education programs with support services as needed. Each parish will make available, or cooperate with other parishes in making available, at least basic religious education programming and sacramental preparation that has been adapted to the individual needs of the special needs student.

Adaptation of the religious education curriculum and the decision to mainstream special needs students are decisions and strategies to be determined by the Pastor, C/DRE, catechists and parents.

Catechists who teach children with special needs shall participate in appropriate in-service to prepare and assist them with their responsibilities. Communication with parents is an important part of familiarizing the catechists and C/DRE with the individual circumstances of children with special needs.

Policy

Adopted: October 4, 1996

NCD/Bishop of Harrisburg