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Resource Program Model for Students with Special Needs in a Local Catholic K-8 School Setting

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Teaching Students with Special Needs in a Catholic K-8 School Setting



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Research Question



- ❧ How can a local Catholic K-8 elementary school serve students with special needs?
- ❧ Defining terms
 - ❧ Catholic School
 - ❧ Students with special needs

Three Key Points



- ❧ 1. Catholic schools are seeking to improve their special education programs.
- ❧ 2. Teachers at faith-based schools (e.g. Catholic schools) lack training in special education and less use of related services.
- ❧ 3. There are five prominent special needs diagnoses in Marin County.

Key Point 1



- ❧ Need for qualified teachers
- ❧ IDEA and LRE
- ❧ *To Teach as Jesus Did*

Key Point 2



- ❧ No training
 - ❧ Special education
 - ❧ Common disabilities

- ❧ Less use of related services
 - ❧ Physical therapy
 - ❧ Occupational therapy

Key Point 3



Marin County	Percent	
Autism	7.8%	←
Deaf	N/A	
Deaf-Blindness	N/A	
Emotional Disturbance	9.1%	←
Hard of Hearing	2.5%	
Intellectual Disability	4.8%	
Learning Disability	34.5%	←
Multiple Disability	0.4%	
Orthopedic Impairment	1.5%	
Other Health Impairment	11.0%	←
Speech or Language Impairment	27.1%	←
Traumatic Brain Injury	N/A	
Visual Impairment	0.9%	

Method



- ❧ Qualitative study that explores the current state of a Resource Program at a Catholic K-8 school
- ❧ Voluntary, anonymous survey of teachers, administrators, and support staff
 - ❧ Ten survey questions
- ❧ Observation of current program
 - ❧ Using a classroom checklist

Findings



- ❧ Total participants = 20 members of the faculty
- ❧ 60% possess a graduate level degree
 - ❧ Only 4 teachers have special education certification
- ❧ 46.67% indicated 'somewhat prepared'
- ❧ Desire for trainings, workshops, professional developments, and more resources

Conclusions



- ❧ Administrators hire well-qualified, trained teachers in special education
- ❧ Opportunities for professional development
 - ❧ Classroom strategies
 - ❧ Information on learning disabilities
 - ❧ Working with parents and other agencies
- ❧ Develop relationship with local public school district

Reflections



- ❧ My reflections
- ❧ Your questions and reflections?

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