

(continued from the bottom of page 1)

- From the beginning, in 1965, the State of Illinois took a leading role in acknowledging that some children with disabilities need more than the bare minimum; that some children have disabilities that are so severe, profound, complex and unique, that services need to be provided in smaller classes; and that an age range needs to be imposed in special education classes; to assure that learning can take place.
- Presently, Illinois Special Education Rules also provide specific steps and timelines for the delivery of services; specific related services to enable the child to participate in the instruction program; and specific procedural safeguards to assure that services will be delivered as required. These specific provisions are not in the federal law.
- Rules which are not specifically defined create more paperwork, not less, and most importantly, ultimately lead to due process hearings and the courts, to define what should have been spelled out in the Rules.
- The reauthorized this Act at regular intervals, the Congress did not intend to usurp the state's right to provide additional services to its own population.

These are only a few of the concerns being expressed by parents, consumers, advocates and professionals about the proposed Illinois State Special Education Rules (Part 226 of the Illinois Administrative Code).

It is expected that these proposed Rules may be adopted at the December 14, 2006 meeting of the Illinois State Board of Education, to be held in the ISBE Board Chambers, 4th floor, 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL, at 1:45 p.m.

(Information from Beverly H. Johns e-mail, (bevjohns@juno.com), 11/10/06, and FRCDD's Public Hearing statements on the ISBE Proposed Special Education Rules.)

Persons who wish to express their concerns about the ISBE Proposed Special Education Rules (Part 226 of the Illinois Administrative Code) should contact Jesse Ruiz, Chairman of the State Board of Education, via e-mail at: jruiz@gcd.com; via FAX at: (312) 569-3135.

Information about IL Rules Also Available from ISBE & FRCDD

For more specific information about the ISBE Proposed Illinois State Special Education Rules, information is available through:

- the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) website at: www.isbe.net/spec-ed; and
- Highlights of Proposed Illinois Special Education Rules, prepared by the Family Resource Center on Disabilities. For a *free* copy, send a stamped, self-addressed business-sized envelope, with your request to: Family Resource Center on Disabilities, 20 E. Jackson Blvd., Room 300, Chicago, IL 60604, or visit our website at: www.frcd.org.