

Updated Guidelines of the German Association for Special Needs Education

Preamble

The work of the German Association for Special Needs Education is based on individual human rights, in particular the right to education and participation according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).

It is the task, intention, and obligation of the German Association for Special Needs Education to demand and implement the rights of people who live under the conditions of a disability or are threatened by disability.

The basic principles of the German Association for Special Needs Education are

- ensuring active participation and education in all life contexts
- to make social and individual disadvantages visible in a biopsychosocial context and to find ways to overcome them.
- advocating for an independent, self-determined and socially integrated lifestyle as far as possible
- support in coping with individual developmental tasks and contributions to the realisation of equal opportunities.

The association sees the prerequisites for this work in special education and in its diverse, also interdisciplinary character and perspective.

Considering inclusive education, this applies to all educational, counselling and support services.

The goals of the German Association for Special Needs Education are

- professionalism and professionalisation in the special educational fields of education, teaching, diagnostics, counselling, and active developmental support
- professionalism in concrete action in the various special educational emphases
- securing the individual right to self-determination, professional guidance, and support in all areas of life, especially in educational institutions.
- support of equal co-operation of all players in different educational contexts.
- supporting the transfer between science and practice and co-operation with other professional associations and self-advocacy groups.
- strengthening of professionalisation in preschool, school, pre-vocational, vocational, and university scopes as well as in training and further education in all fields of special needs education based on current scientific findings.

Fields of action of the German Association for Special Needs Education are

- representation of the right to participation, education, and individual support over the entire life span of a person, independent of party politics and denominations,
- acting as a professional co-operation partner for people who live under the conditions of a disability or are threatened by disability,
- co-operation with responsible persons in educational and social areas as well as with all relevant groups under the best possible consideration of its objectives,
- development of concepts, statements, standards, and positions and thus the politically effective action in appropriate contexts,
- the offer of professional educational formats and
- contributions to a scientifically and practically oriented development of competencies,
- further education offers of the "*vds Bildungsakademie*".

The German Association for Special Needs Education is effective in

- its association committees on different political, social, institutional, and educational levels
- appropriate co-operations and networks
- conferences, congresses, and expert discussions as interdisciplinary exchange
- scientific and practice-oriented contributions of the association's journal "Zeitschrift für Heilpädagogik (ZfH)"
- concepts, positions, and standards
- its website and newsletter with statements on association-specific, current social and political developments.