

Position Paper of The Arc of Pennsylvania in Regards to Funding Incentives for  
Intermediate Units to Provide Segregated Options

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It is clear that the number of children served in segregated centers operated by Intermediate Units (IUs) varies dramatically from IU to IU. Many IUs will provide unique services to school districts. However, we do believe that many IUs are able to supplement the costs of segregated services through funding from the State. In order to prevent any financial incentive for segregated options, and to put the pressure of a free-market environment on IUs so that they become more cost effective and improve quality, The Arc of Pennsylvania recommends that all funding to IUs be given to school districts. This approach will mean those IUs that are providing a quality, low-cost service, will expand and continue to provide those services to school districts.

It is the position of The Arc of Pennsylvania that the direct funding of IUs has increased the likelihood that children will be served in segregated classes operated by the IU. To prevent any financial incentive to segregate children, it is the position of The Arc of Pennsylvania that all funding to the IUs should be given to the local school districts, and that if local school districts wish to purchase services from the IU, they can be responsible for reimbursing 100% of the cost directly to the IU.