

#TeachDisabilityHistory

Building awareness about disability history through primary sources.

Disabled young adults working with Easterseals Massachusetts (ESMA) created a campaign to promote the importance of teaching disability history in schools. There is currently no mandate in Massachusetts that disability history be taught at any grade level, and it is often never taught. The #TeachDisabilityHistory campaign aims to spread awareness to teachers and students about this through presentations and activities utilizing primary sources.

About Easterseals

Easterseals Massachusetts (ESMA) is a statewide, community-based organization that empowers people with disabilities to live full and independent lives.

Our programs and services constantly respond to unmet needs to ensure that children and adults with disabilities have equal opportunities to live, learn, work, and play.



Committee

The #TeachDisabilityHistory campaign is led by a committee of disabled young adults. The committee helps move the campaign forward by meeting regularly to discuss upcoming events and ways to spread the campaign's message. The campaign committee allows opportunities for disabled young adults to gain presentation experience.



Presentations

The committee leads presentations to educate people about the campaign and its message. They give background on how and why the campaign got started, talk about curriculums that are available to teach disability history, then lead a trivia game that utilizes primary sources. The game tests the audience's knowledge about disability history while educating them on historical figures and moments in the disability community. The presentation concludes with a conversation that questions participants on why they think it is important to #TeachDisabilityHistory.



What year was the first school of the deaf founded in Hartford, Connecticut?

1919	1881
1817	1776

I think it is important to #TeachDisabilityHistory
Because...

