

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION MUCKRAKER “MUCK OF THE MONTH AWARD” MAY 2003



To: ***THE FAIRFIELD (OHIO) CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT***

For: Suspending a disabled 11-year old boy, whose IEP says: “needs to be escorted at all times,” and that he “has a tendency to wander,” for leaving his school building. “[T]he boy apparently left through a side door after he had asked for a pass to go to the restroom while he was waiting in the assistant principal’s office,” according to a story in the Journal-News.com (the Journal News, Hamilton, Ohio. : www.journal-news.com/news/newsfd/auto/feed/news/2003/05/24/1053749510.03033.2707.0766.html).

The District’s Assistant Superintendent then said, according to the Journal-News report, that the boy was suspended because his mother had not turned up for a disciplinary conference, thereby punishing the child for the “sins” of the parent!

And Honorable Mention To: Fairfield Police Chief Michael Dickey, for then permitting the arrest of the boy for unruliness because the Department determined that the boy understood what he was doing and was competent. Psychiatrists they’re not! Maybe they administered the Rohrschach.

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION MUCKRAKERS SAY:

“WHOA! DO THESE FOLK HAVE IT ALL BACKWARDS, OR WHAT?” The district should have suspended the administrator who left the boy without an escort, given his well-documented, disability-related need to be escorted at all times and tendency to wander.

The police should have arrested the administrator and charged him/her with endangering the welfare of a minor. Is this victimizing the victim, or is this 1984 again?

And, we sure bet the district will “determine,” in its sole exercise of discretion and professional expertise, that this disabled 11-year old student requires a transfer to a segregated, all-special education alternate educational placement for his own safety, *so that his school and district administrators will not have to bother reading – or following – his IEP. Same old; same old.* **THE MUCKRAKERS** also betcha \$5.00 (five dollars, US) that the “escort” was doing something else for the administrator, like polishing the glass on his/her office’s door, while s/he should have been with this kid. And that no kid in the proposed alternative educational placement ever graduated high school.