



## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE FAIR EDUCATION ACT

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### **What is the FAIR Act?**

The FAIR (Fair, Accurate, Inclusive, Respectful) Education Act (Senate Bill 48) was passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on July 14, 2011, which went into effect on January 1, 2012. This law makes it possible for students to learn more about the history of people with disabilities, lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender persons (LGBT) and how they've played important roles in our society. This California law also says that schools can't use text books or lesson plans that discriminate against people with disabilities or the LGBT community. Students in K-12 grades will learn about this subject in their social science classes.

### **What does it mean for youth in California?**

The FAIR Act builds on the efforts youth with disabilities have made to make sure our history is taught in schools. It means the history lessons for all students- whether they have a disability or not, whether they are gay or straight- will include facts about our communities for the first time. This law will help us learn more about the history of all Californians so that we can have conversations with our teachers, peers, parents and community members that lead to education that includes all people.

## What will be taught?

With the FAIR Education Act in place, you will be learning from your teachers about disability historical figures and events some examples of this are:

- **Ed Roberts**, the father of the **Independent Living Movement**;
- The Disability Rights Movement and the importance of the passage of the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**;
- **Judy Heumann**, who led the **504 Protest** - the longest sit-in of a federal office in U.S. history.

And you will also learn about LGBT struggles for equality by studying:

- **Harvey Milk**, a San Francisco business man who became one of the first LGBT persons elected to office in the nation;
- **The Briggs Initiative**, and unsuccessful attempt to ban LGBT people from becoming teachers in California;
- **Bayard Rustin**, an African American gay man who helped plan the **March On Washington in 1963** with Dr. Martin Luther King.

## **What can you do?**

In 2010, YO! Disabled & Proud led the effort to have the second week in October declared as Disability History Week. The FAIR Education Act is the next step to making our schools more welcoming for everyone.

***You to join our team and help get disability history taught in your school!***

YO! Volunteers are located at many of California's Independent Living Centers, if you would like to become a YO! Volunteer, join an YO! Action Team, visit: [www.yodisabledproud.org](http://www.yodisabledproud.org) and join YO!



**Youth Organizing! Disabled & Proud**  
**Project of California Foundation for Independent Living Centers**

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