

Visually Handicapped Funding at Mendocino College

The Grand Jury investigation of the Visually Handicapped funding programs within the Disabled Students Program Services (DSPS) of Mendocino College (MC) found that MC uses the funds properly.

Method of Investigation

The Grand Jury interviewed the DSPS Director and the DSPS Learning Disabled Specialist. The GJ visited MC. The Grand Jury reviewed the MC DSPS budgets and expenditures for the fiscal years of 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and the State of California Chancellor's office budget for DSPS disbursements to Community Colleges.

Background Information

DSPS encourages disabled student independence and responsibility. The program promotes equal opportunity and access to college courses.

The DSPS receives funds through grant from the State of California for the Disabled Students program. The DSPS grant stipulates that a specified portion of the Visually Handicapped Program funds be restricted to the Visually Handicapped program.

Findings

1. MC uses part of the DSPS grant to prepare the faculty to accommodate visually handicapped students.
2. MC uses part of the DSPS grant to purchase new materials and computer programs or to modify existing materials and computer programs to give the visually handicapped students access to all the educational materials and facilities available to other students.
3. MC uses part of the grant for funding a full time employee, hired in November 2001, to monitor and modify materials and computer programs for the visually handicapped students, as well as to assist in the training faculty in the use of these tools for the education of the visually handicapped students.
4. Through tracking the expenditures within the DSPS for the Visually Handicapped program, the Grand Jury found that funds were not misused or misappropriated.