


Special education programs are funded

The Alaska State Plan for the education of exceptional children was recently approved by the U.S. Office of Education. The federal approval is necessary for Alaska to receive approximately \$316,000 in federal funds for programs for handicapped and exceptional children. Another \$176,000 is expected to be released later.



According to Alaska Department of Education spokesmen, the plan reaffirms the state's goal of providing "a free appropriate public education for all handicapped children ages 3-19." Another goal is to locate those children so they may be enrolled in "an educational program designed to meet their unique needs."

"If you have such a child or know of such a child, you should notify the school administrators where that child resides or call the Alaska Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children," said Sherman Welsh, special education specialist with the Department.

Other Alaskan special education goals include emphasis on educating exceptional children with normal children and seeing that "handicapped children are removed from the regular classroom only when the nature or severity of the child's handicap is such that education cannot be achieved in a normal classroom setting."

Welsh added that the state plans to develop safeguard to assure that testing and evaluation materials used in placement of handicapped children are not