

For more information about this program, contact the OPWDD Public Education Program at (518) 473-1190, or contact a regional Public Education team:

Albany

(518) 654-7696

Binghamton

(607) 770-0386

Bronx

(212) 229-3174

Brooklyn/Staten Island

(212) 229-3175 or (718) 642-8669

Buffalo

(716) 517-2165

Manhattan

(212) 229-3173

Queens

(718) 217-4683

Rochester

(607) 776-9800

Rome

(315) 339-0110, Ext. 251

Syracuse

(315) 473-5059

Thiells

(845) 947-6216

Tupper Lake

(315) 379-9667



NYS Office For People With Developmental Disabilities

Putting People First



Mainstreet

Raising awareness of developmental disabilities

For middle and high-school students

(866) 946-9733

www.opwdd.ny.gov





At OPWDD, our mission is to help individuals with developmental disabilities live richer lives. With that in mind, OPWDD's Mainstreet program is designed to foster greater acceptance for individuals with developmental disabilities among middle and high-school students.

The program teaches students about developmental disabilities and addresses a range of issues, including stereotypes and how they can be overcome. I encourage educators and staff to incorporate Mainstreet into their curriculums.

Courtney Burke, Commissioner

Mainstreet

Designed for middle and high-school students, Mainstreet is an interactive program that uses theater, simulation activities and discussion to expand awareness and understanding of developmental disabilities.

Examples include:

- Putting students in the "driver's seat" of a wheelchair or, through theater games, helping them experience hearing or vision loss, or grapple with a learning disability.
- Having educators role-play the part of a person with a disability. This exercise helps to dispel myths and misconceptions associated with individuals with developmental disabilities, and encourages students to examine their attitudes, feelings and social etiquette toward others.
- Interactive games provide a non-threatening opportunity for students to explore and voice their inner values and attitudes.

Mainstreet can be customized to fit the level of needs, interests and issues of any student groups. Classroom teachers can help select the topics and exercises appropriate for their students. Mainstreet presentations can run from a single day, to up to a full week of classroom time.

Specialized topics for Mainstreet presentations include:

- Understanding disabilities, including autism, epilepsy, learning differences, mental retardation, blindness, cerebral palsy and deafness.
- Learning about the differences between mental illness, mental retardation and learning disabilities.
- What is accessibility and why it's important.
- What are the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA)?
- How disabled and non-disabled peers can help and support each other.

Mainstreet is presented free of charge by the Office For People With Developmental Disabilities. For more information, or to schedule sessions at your school, call OPWDD's toll-free Information Line at (866) 946-9733 voice; or (866) 933-4889 TTY; visit OPWDD's Web site, www.opwdd.ny.gov; or contact your local OPWDD DDSO. A listing of DDSO contact numbers, and a request form, is included on the back of this brochure.

This brochure is published by the OPWDD Communications Office, located at 44 Holland Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12229.

Presentation Request

School/Organization Name

Address

Zip

Telephone

Fax

County/School District

Name of the person completing form

If your school or organization has already seen a presentation, please note the date of the most recent presentation:
