

## **General Information**

The websites reviewed both focus on special education (SPED). The first, [www.specialeducationguide.com](http://www.specialeducationguide.com), involves a great deal of information about SPED in general. The second website reviewed is <http://www.specialolympics.org/>. This page is the official site for the Special Olympics and focuses heavily on this area of SPED. The authors were given for both pages along with other typical general information about the webpages.

## **System**

MacBook Air: 1.4 GHz Intel Core i5 processor, 4GB 1600 MHz DDR3 memory, Intel HD Graphics 5000 1536 MB.

## **Design & Development**

The design of the Special Education Guide website is well done but offers far less in regards to multimedia options. The Special Olympics page looks like it may have had more money put into its design & development. Both sites have a great deal of information to convey, and it seems almost impossible to be able to do this without having multiple layers of useful information. Although each site deals with vast amounts of information, the Special Olympics page did not feel as crowded and looked slicker by having more multimedia options throughout the site. Navigation is not difficult on both sites, but the Special Olympics do a better job making it look and feel more technologically savvy. The home page link is available on both sites no matter where a user is in the site. The text is easy to read and does not pose a problem for an average user. Again, the Special Education Guide page did not do as much to make it look like a more advanced site than the Special Olympics site.

## **Content**

The content on both sites is very well done and give a great deal of information. The Special Education Guide page does not focus on one area of special education but does offer details about the general topics that are broached (e.g. Teacher Certification, Career Paths, Early Intervention, etc.). The authors of this site are experts in their respective areas of special education. There is a solid amount of information about all of the authors of this website. This site also offers many, many links in the actual written content of the site. The Special Olympics does have a good amount of text, but relies more heavily on multimedia; and that makes the site appear to have more time and effort put into its design and development. Both sites did organize information using titles in bars or underlined. Also, both of these sites do spark thinking and can help lead a person interested in the area of special education to other important aspects of this field. The Special Education Guide does this especially well by offering further educational opportunities in the United States.

## Credibility

Both websites do look credible even though they are not equal in their appearance. The content is excellent and accurate on both sites. It does help that the Special Olympics is a commonly known organization throughout the world so it may not have to rely as much on content as the Special Education Guide page. Both pages offer valuable information that can be accessed and used by both people new to the field of special education and those who are well versed in the area.

## Comments from Peers:

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### [Molly Mannix](#)

ThursdaySep 1 at 7:38pm

[Manage Discussion Entry](#)

Hi Frank!

I'm glad you reviewed SPED websites, as a teacher, it's always great to learn more about SPED and how to better reach our students! I think your evaluation hit the nail on the head when describing the design and layout of each site.

The Special Education Guide page had a very large banner, which I thought took away from the content of the page. I agree with your assessment that there was very little multimedia. There was a lot of text on the page and I found it a little overwhelming and hard to read. I did like all the resources it had for people interested in pursuing a career in SPED and how easy it was to navigate to those pages from the home page.

I agree the Special Olympics page was much more put together. I thought the page included great uses of multimedia. I really enjoyed scrolling down the page and putting my cursor over a picture and getting a small piece of information with a link to take me to the next page. I also thought a strength of this site was the navigation bar. When you scrolled over each page, an easy to read drop down menu appeared with a detailed summary of what you could find. Overall, I thought both sites are great resources for anyone looking to learn more about SPED.

### [Courtney Horr](#)

FridaySep 2 at 6:39pm

[Manage Discussion Entry](#)

Hello Frank,

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I agree that both sites have great content, but definitely believe that the Special Olympics' site looks more professional with the abundance of multimedia throughout. I think the Special Education Guide's site did a very thorough job of gathering information for every state, as well as providing additional information through outside links. Overall, this site seems like a great resource for educators and parents alike.

Thank you for sharing these!

## [Hope Spangler](#)

FridaySep 2 at 10:48pm

[Manage Discussion Entry](#)

Hello Frank,

I wanted to comment on your review because I am a Special Education teacher and wanted to see the information that I use everyday in a different format through web design.

I found that both websites were visually appealing, but I agree with you that the Special Olympics website put more time and money into it. I also think this is because the organization is so successful it probably could afford to hire someone to create a great website!

I thought the Special Education Guide page used a good mix of text and links to display it's information. For example, I really liked the visual colored bars they used to navigate to each type of certification, or specialty.

Overall, I thought both sites were visually appealing for their specific audience. The Special Olympics site is focusing on the successes of their events and showcases them through multimedia. Whereas on the Special Education Guide page, there isn't as much of a need for videos.