State weighs new special ed rules

For 10 years, Pat Stacey has taught special education, Despite a master's degree in learning disabilities, proposed state rules could require the Uti-ca resource-room teacher to take 30 more college credits costing \$3,000 in differ to keep her joint of Education 31 of E

"Universities are in desperate need of students and are going to tell you it's more complicated than it is. But special education teaching is just good

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MORE THAN 500 people attended the last of six public hearings on proposed changes in Michigan's special education rules. The eight-hour session wrapped up two weeks of well-attended hearings in East Lansing, Kalamatoo, Wayne, Traverse City and Martisutte.

juette.

While more than 300 were present at East Lansing and Wayne intermediate Schools, Oakland's was the largest and ongest gathering. One-hundred-twenty people spoke at the seasion, which tarted at 4 p.m. and ended after mid-

light.
"We expected an overwhelming re-ponse," said Carol Gardner, director if special education for Onkland Inter-nediate School District which serves

nediate School District which serves liblocal districts.

There is concern about the potential freet on youngsters as well as in-reased program costs."

THE STATE Board of Education is onsidering revising 62 special educa-tion administrative rules and eliminat-gifive.

ng five.

In addition, a dozen new rules are
eing proposed. Included are proposals
or resource rooms to serve students
the need to be in special education
alf a day or less, revisions in proceures for due process hearings and in-estigations of parent complaints,

'This is overwhelming and unfair. Universities are in desperate need of students and are going to tell you it's more complicated than it is. But special education teaching is just good teaching."

> – Pat Stacev special education teacher

changes in qualifications of special education personnel and revisions in teacher-student radios.

The rule changes would take place Spet. I. Several of those addressing the public hearing requested they be put off for another year.

Representatives of several districts appressed concern about the cost of implementing some of the changes.

"It's a Cach 32", "add Katherine Ellott, a Birmingham resident who represented the Special Education Administrators of Oakland County, She and longuage teachers will cost the district short of the control of the control

tween special education and general education classrooms.

There is widespread concern that giving "resource rooms" official approval would mean hiring more aides for the programs and upgrading teachers who would be required to have cer-

OTHER ISSUES discussed include:

• Teacher training requirements which could mean more education for present special education teachers.

"It's safe to say some people will be going back to school," said Herbert.

• Intermediate school districts would present three-year plans for special education instead of the present one year plans. Aimling at more long-

nge planning, the change would rm to the three-year state plan dred by the federal government.

form to the three-year state plan required by the federal government.

• Complaints about services would go immediately to the state Department of Education, which would clarify which rule pertains to it. Then the district would investigate the charge. State officials contend there is "inconsistency" in the present system of letting local districts determine which rule applies and handling complaints on their own.

• Speech and language theraplats' easeloads would be reduced from 75 students to 60 students.

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• Strupt 14 state of the state of

tricts would also be evaluated. Possible changes would be suggested.
SEVERAL TEACHERS expressed concern about requirements for existing teachers being upped. Most suggested a "granditathering" clause pretenting those already in the field from the rules. Otherwise, there is concern many teachers will leave, special education for general education classrooms.

rooms.
Michael Dombrowski, director of Michael Dombrowski, director of special services for Clarenceville Schools, said he'd like to see increased education for new teachers. "There are gaps out there and programming is moving along at a fast rate. But you can't outdo past experience," in explained, asking also that the changes be delayed until fall, 1986.

"A teacher with past experience working in a resource room with kids should be grandfathered in."

Speaking on behalf of the Association for Retarded Citizens of Michigan, speech and language pathologist Patricia Mullen said parents were not adequately informed about the hearings.

"I submit that the reason parent turnout at the hearings is low is because parents don't know," she said.
"Tin for quality. Ladies and gentiemen of the state Department of Education, we will be watching you."

collection of classics, her sign

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Main roads cleared first

County Road Commission.

"Due to the sustained snow and leing feetial subdivision streets in township areas of Oakland County has been declayed by the need to keep Road Commission trucks on main traveled routes.

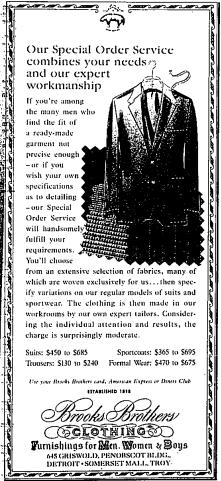
"It may be several days before we are able to dietry snow plows to subdivision streets," said John L. Grubba, managing director of the Oakland

Oakland County Road Commission.

"Due to the sustained snow and leing onditions since midday Sunday, Feb. in the sustained snow and leing onditions since midday Sunday, Feb. in the sustained snow and leing onditions since midday Sunday, Feb. in the sustained snow and leing onditions since midday Sunday, Feb. in the sustained snow and leing onditions since midday Sunday, Feb. in the sustained snow and leing onditions since midday Sunday, Feb. in the sustained snow and leing onditions since midday Sunday, Feb. in the sustained snow and leing onditions since midday Sunday, Feb. in the sustained snow and leing onditions since midday Sunday, Feb. in the sustained snow and leing onditions since midday Sunday, Feb. in the sustained snow and leing onditions since midday Sunday, Feb. on main routes around the clock. We one never been able to staff or equip to clear the more than 2,300 miles of Oakland County roads on the same period.

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