BENEFITS OF INCLUSION
Presented by Robin Schroud,
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Community Initiatives
Together, We’re Better

Aspire’s **mission** is to support the successes of children and adults with developmental disabilities, strengthen their families, and build embracing communities.

Aspire’s **vision** is to create a community where people of all abilities live, learn and grow together.
Our services…

Kids
- Inclusion Consulting & Educational Support
- Family Enrichment
- Pediatric Therapy

Living
- Life Skills Enrichment
- Community Homes
- Independent Living

Careers
- Aspire CareerLink
- Career Development

Partners
- Aspire CoffeeWorks
- Consultation Services
Children that Learn Together, Learn to Live Together

I. Define Inclusion

II. The Law

III. Research on Inclusion

IV. Benefits and Challenges of Inclusion

V. Inclusion in the Classroom and the Community

VI. An Inclusive World Embraces All Different Intelligences
What is inclusion?

What does it look like?
An Inclusive School Means…

- *Neighborhood* schools
- *Age-appropriate* regular classes
- Support for ALL students to *learn, contribute and participate*
- Inclusion is *purposeful*
An Inclusive School includes…

• Culturally responsive educational strategies

• Differentiated instruction

• Positive behavioral supports
An Inclusive School does not discriminate based on:

- Disability
- Gender
- Socio-economic status
- Cultural heritage
- Preferred language
- Religion
It Takes a Village…

Admin

Faculty

Family

Advocate
Inclusive Education...

INVolves....

- A philosophy
- Classroom with ALL students
- Affects all aspects of learning
- Different goals
- Values/empowers family

Doesn't Necessarily Imply...

- No pull-out
- No aide
- Homogenous groups
An Inclusive School is one in which surrounding Communities Embrace Inclusive Principles among Citizens
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (2004)

- Free and appropriate public education (FAPE) & related services to students identified with disabilities to meet their individual goals.

- Mandates students to be educated in the regular classroom, to the maximum extent possible least restrictive environment (LRE)

- High expectations for children
Response to Intervention (RTI)
What is a service plan?

**IEP** – Legal document outlining a child’s learning needs as determined by formal evaluation.  
(Diagnosis must fall within one or more of 13 categories.)

**ICEP** – Document outlining a child’s learning needs to the extent which they can be met in a specific Catholic School setting.  
(Requires IEP or formal diagnostic outcomes.)

*Parent handout*
Service Plan

Includes *modifications/accommodations*

*Updated as needed*

*Shared with ALL teachers*

*Incorporated in all aspects* of the *child’s daily activities*
Significant improvement in reading, math and adaptive behavior (Cole, Waldren, & Majd, 2004)

Overall improvements on standardized testing, attendance, behavior and better outcomes after high school (Wagner, Newman, Cameto, Levine & Garza, 2006)
Assessments should...

- Focus on growth
- Consider child’s strengths and challenges
- Examine Formative vs. Summative
- Incorporate UDL
In addition...

- Alternative assessments more valid than current state achievement tests for students with disabilities (Buzick & Laitusis, 2010, Laitusis et al., 2011)

- Inclusive education:
  1) is the ethical thing to do
  2) involves minimal costs compared to impact of a lifetime of exclusion and underemployment
  3) less expensive than building new segregated facilities

(http://www.autisticadvocacy.org/modules/smartsection/category.php?categoryid=76)
Challenges to Teachers:

- Collaborating with entire team
- Fear of lowering standards for all to accommodate a few
- Finding time to communicate with parents
- Needing more time for accommodations and modifications
- Using unfamiliar equipment/technology
- Understanding that students don’t need to have the same educational goals to learn together
Empower to teach diverse group of learners

Model tolerance of individual differences

Look at student’s strengths and challenges

Demystify stigmas attached to children with special needs

Adopt new approaches benefiting all children

Individualize instruction starting at baseline

Reconfigure classroom design

Parallel curriculum in a meaningful way
Challenges for Students:

Mindset change for some

Teaching opportunity on diverse learning styles

Inclusion is about independence, not dependence
Kids’ quotes…

“Does a disability last forever?”

“Could I get a disability?”

“Sometimes I stay up at night wondering why my classmate gets different assignments than me.”
**Benefits to Students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students <em>with</em> Special Needs:</th>
<th>Students <em>without</em> Disabilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>❑ Widening circle of friends</td>
<td>❑ Appreciating uniqueness of all people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>❑ Modeling after typically developing peers</td>
<td>❑ Moving beyond stereotypes of people w/special needs</td>
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<tr>
<td>❑ Taking new risks/raise the bar</td>
<td>❑ Serving as positive role models</td>
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<tr>
<td>❑ Facing academic challenges</td>
<td>❑ Learning to assist/teach others with different abilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>❑ Peer partnering vs. exclusively working with teachers/aides</td>
<td>❑ Realizing own learning styles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>❑ School participation beyond academics</td>
<td>❑ Expanding awareness of diversity</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
“It’s okay to ask people with disabilities questions.”

“It is important to treat the people that have disabilities with respect.”

“You might not always know that someone has a disability, some are invisible.”

“Always ask before you help someone with a disability.”
What Inclusion looks like in the classroom...
Professionals who may work in the classroom:

- Teacher/paraprofessional
- Special educator
- Speech, Occupational, Physical therapists
- Social Worker
- Behavior therapist
- Nurse
- Psychologist
All Are Welcome
Education Approach

- Professional Development
- Classroom Coaching/Modeling
- Curriculum Modification
- Teacher Consultation
- Classroom Observations
- Student observations
- Therapeutic Screenings
- Parent Workshops
- Skill Building Groups
Service Plan

Includes modifications/accommodations

Updated by team and updated regularly

Needs to be shared with all teachers

Incorporated in all aspects of the child’s daily activities
“If I don’t learn the way you teach, then teach the way I learn”
Gardner’s Theory of Multiple Intelligences ....

- Eight types of intelligences that we use to learn, remember, perform and understand in different ways.

- Biased toward linguistic modes of instruction and assessment

How can we challenge ourselves to incorporate multiple intelligences in school?

Image retrieved from www.connectionsacademy.com

Gardner, 1991
Standards in education tell us what to teach. Differentiation tells us how to teach.
Differentiation is a teacher’s response to all learners’ needs.

Teachers can differentiate through

- Content
- Process
- Product
- Environment

Paying attention to students’

- Interest
- Learning Profile
- Readiness
- Affect

Guided by general principles of differentiation

- Good curriculum
- Respectful work
- Positive community

Flexible management strategies

Ongoing assessment

Through a range of strategies such as

- Multiple intelligences
- Jigsaw
- 4MAT
- Graphic Organizers
- RAFTS
- Compacting
- Tiered assignments
- Leveled texts
- Complex Instruction
- Learning contracts

Carol Tomlinson
What Does Inclusion Look Like in the Community?
*Building community is *not* just about disability

*When people connect with each other, they are less dependent on outside resources

*Greater accessibility benefits everyone
Inclusion working in the community

- Inclusive playgrounds
- Inclusive workplace
- Inclusion and religion
Take the “dis” out of “disability”

• One out of five Americans has a disability

• 50 percent of us will have a disability during our lifetime

• Removing physical and social barriers empowers citizens to be active members of society
93 million children have a disability and less than 50% of these children finish a primary education.

Disability now viewed as a human right by U.N Convention.

Pope Francis challenges us to reach out to the marginalized.
Shift in Paradigm

• Job training for diverse learners

• Businesses train employees on *how to interact with consumers with disabilities*

• Theater companies have *embraced the strengths of diverse learners*

• Independent living takes on a new look!

• Inclusion presumes *active participants*

• *Transitional opportunities* to higher education

• Separate *is no longer equal*
“If we are to achieve a richer culture, rich in contrasting values, we must recognize the whole gamut of human potentialities, and so weave a less arbitrary social fabric, one in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place”

(Margaret Meade, Anthropologist)
References

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TOGETHER, WE’RE BETTER.

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