Great Things Happen in Inclusive Schools!



Created by T. Le

National Inclusive Schools Week™

What is National Inclusive Schools Week?

National Inclusive Schools Week, celebrated annually the first week in December, highlights and celebrates the progress of our nation's schools in employing inclusive practices to ensure a quality education for an increasingly diverse student population. The *Week* encourages educators, students, and parents to strive for improved academic achievement for **all** children, including those with disabilities, those from low socio-economic backgrounds, and English Language Learners. Now in its 6th year, *National Inclusive Schools Week* is celebrated in thousands of schools and communities in virtually every state in the country.

What does it mean to be an inclusive school?

Historically, inclusive practices focused strictly on integrating students with cognitive disabilities into "regular" classrooms—traditionally referred to as inclusion. More recently, inclusive practices have broadened to meet the needs of all students with a recognition that all students benefit from more personal relationships with their teachers and instruction that is varied and accounts for multiple learning styles, peer-to-peer learning and problem solving.

Why be inclusive?

With the enactment of No Child Left Behind and revisions to IDEA, schools and districts are being held accountable for the academic achievement of all students as a whole as well as that of different populations broken down as subgroups. For example, each school is measured on the academic performance of specific racial groups, students with emotional and physical disabilities, English Language Learners, and students from low socio-economic backgrounds. Research has shown that instructional strategies that lie at the core of inclusive practices have a positive impact on the academic achievement of all students including those that are called out as a subgroup.



Characteristics of inclusive schools:

- Make sure each and every student feels welcome and is learning
- Embrace the understanding that every student is unique and, therefore, learns differently
- Understand that all children—students with and without disabilities, English Language Learners, and those with special talents—learn better if teaching is tailored to their abilities and interest
- Collaborate with families
- Hold high expectations for student success

EDC

Visit www.inclusiveschools.org today!



"Our school has been moving toward inclusion for the last three years. Celebrating validated inclusion for everyone . . . we were able to see that this is a national movement."

- Participant

How do I get started?

Planning tools, proclamations, celebration kits, lesson plans, articles and other relevant publications, and reference materials are available at www.inclusiveschools.org

How can I celebrate?

Our Celebration Kit provides many different of ideas on how you might participate in *National Inclusive Schools Week*. The following are just a few of the ways other schools and districts have celebrated in the past:

- Implement inclusive practices in your classroom or school
- Address the integration of inclusive practices into your school improvement plan
- Establish an inclusive practices leadership team
- Celebrate the *Week*
- Hold a poster or essay contest
- Sponsor the *Week*
- Issue a proclamation

To learn more, visit www.inclusiveschools.org and download our FREE Celebration Kit.

Join these visionary organizations in recognizing that "Great things happen in inclusive schools."

National Inclusive Schools Week

Education Development Center, Inc.
55 Chapel Street
Newton, MA 02458-1060
Toll free phone: 877-332-2870
TTY: 617-964-5448
Fax: 617-969-3440
nisw@edc.org
www.inclusiveschools.org

National Inclusive Schools Week is an initiative of the Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative at Education Development Center, Inc., based in Newton, MA.

The Access Center • American Association of People with Disabilities • American Dance Therapy Association • American Federation of Teachers • American School Counselor Association • American Speech-Language-Hearing Association • The Arc of Tucson • The ARC of the United States • Brookes Publishing • Califone International • CAST Center for Applied Special Technology • Center for Children & Families • Consortium for School Networking • Cooke Center for Learning & Development • Council for Exceptional Children • Council of Administrators of Special Education • District Administration • Education Development Center • Federation for Children with Special Needs • Kurzweil Educational Systems • Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education • Massachusetts Association of Special Education Parent Advisory Councils • National Association for the Education of African American Children with Learning Disabilities • National Association for Multicultural Education • National Association of Secondary School Principals • National Association of State Directors of Special Education • National Center for Learning Disabilities • National Center on Education, Disability and Juvenile Justice • National Center on Secondary Education & Transition • National Coalition on Self-Determination, Inc. • National Down Syndrome Congress • National Down Syndrome Society • National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities • National Education Association • National Middle School Association • National Technical Assistance Consortium for Children and Young Adults who are Deaf-Blind • Northeast Regional Resource Center • National Staff Development Council • Ohio Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development • Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights • Parents for Inclusive Education • Scholastic Administr@tor • Soliloquy Learning • Sopris West • Southeast Regional Resource Center • Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc. (New Jersey) • Technical Assistance Alliance for Parent Centers • Today's Catholic Teacher • University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning • Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative • VSA arts • Western Regional Resource Center