For Immediate Release

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CELEBRATION KIT NOW AVAILABLE!

Order your celebration materials today

Newton, MA—The *6th Annual National Inclusive Schools Week*, scheduled for December 4-8, 2006, highlights and celebrates the progress our nation's schools have made in using inclusive practices to ensure a quality education for an increasingly diverse student population, including students with disabilities, those from low socio-economic backgrounds, and English language learners.

This year's celebration will place a special focus on "Charting an Inclusive Journey through School, Work, and Life: Successful Transition Planning for All Students." Throughout a student's academic career, he or she will experience many transitions—from elementary to middle school, from middle to high school, and from high school to post-secondary education or work. These changes can be difficult even for students who have the best supports, but for students with disabilities, English language learners, and those with little community support, these transitions can make the difference between success and failure. Inclusive schools and communities guide children and youth along a personalized and supportive path, which can ensure smoother transitions and, ultimately, success.

The 2006 Celebration Kit is now available and includes everything you will need to participate in the *6th Annual National Inclusive Schools Week*. The updated kit contains:

- planning tools and checklists to make it easier for you to organize a celebration in your school community
- new celebration ideas, activities, resources, and lesson plans for educators, families, and community leaders focusing on disability issues, diversity, and community building
- dozens of examples of how schools across the country celebrated in previous years
- references and suggestions for adapting the celebration activities and events for children with disabilities
- publications that speak to the benefits of inclusive schools
- materials to use to promote the *Week* and inclusive practices in your community

National Inclusive Schools Week™

An initiative of
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Be sure to visit http://www.inclusiveschools.org to download a free Celebration Kit. CD-ROM versions of the Celebration Kit and printed booklets of our popular publication, "Celebration Ideas: Activities and Resources for Schools, Classrooms, and Families," are both available for purchase. Enhance your school community's celebration by distributing pencils, posters, and bumper stickers with the message "Great things happen in inclusive schools." To order these products, please visit, http://www.inclusiveschools.org/ordering_info.asp.

As you make you celebration plans, please consider entering a poster or essay contest reflecting the theme "Great things happen in inclusive schools." We are asking students and adults to write an essay or create a poster that explores why inclusive schools are so important and how students of all abilities and cultural backgrounds contribute to their schools and communities in a positive way. We also encourage group submissions, which will be judged separately. For more information, visit http://www.inclusiveschools.org/kit.asp#poster.

About the *Week*: An initiative of Education Development Center, *National Inclusive Schools Week* is celebrated annually the first week in December by schools, professional organizations, and cultural associations across the country and abroad.

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