



Understanding Inclusion: *Internet Resources*

Inclusion is an educational approach and philosophy that provides all students (with and without disabilities) with:

- Community membership
- Greater opportunities for academic and social achievement
- Welcoming attitude
- Attention to and validation of unique needs and learning styles

How inclusion is applied to opportunities in the classroom may vary from school to school. In placing students, terms like “resource classrooms” or “special ed” classrooms could also refer to general education or inclusive classrooms that have a special education teacher co-teaching with the general education teacher. Other models include special education support professionals providing supports, accommodations and modifications that tailor the learning environment for the individualized needs of the student. “Self-contained” classrooms usually refer to classes where special education teachers assist special education students exclusively. Schools which exercise a broader, more flexible approach to inclusion, are able to extend the reach of this valuable resource to serve a greater number of students -- those identified with special needs and those without an IEP or 504 plan who simply benefit from the extra support and nurturing inclusive environments offer.

Best Practices - *There has been considerable work done in the area of best practices related to inclusion. Reliable information on inclusion, in general, and how to make it work for individuals is readily available in an increasing number of places.*

National Institute for Urban School Improvement - <http://www.edc.org/urban> resources and tool kits to support inclusion for teachers, students, families, and communities.

Institute for Community Integration: www.ici.umn.edu database of information (many of which can be downloaded) on inclusion, and useful information from the University of Minnesota.

Circle of Inclusion: <http://www.circleofinclusion.org/> resources and information for early childhood.

Kids Together: <http://www.kidstogether.org/> designed by parents to promote inclusive school and community life.

Student-Led IEPs: A Guide for Student Involvement

http://www.cec.sped.org/student-led_ieps.pdf, downloadable book from the Council for Exceptional Children, written by Marcy McGahee, Christine Mason, Teri Wallace, and Bonnie Jones.



National Center on Educational Outcomes: <http://education.umn.edu/nceo/> useful information to support high expectations and accountability for out comes for students with disabilities. Site also includes an online accommodations bibliography to connect with research.

IMPACT: Feature issue on Revisiting Inclusive Education K-12

<http://ici.umn.edu/products/impact/161/161.pdf> newsletter of the Institute for Community Integration that reviews inclusion from the perspectives of people with disabilities, researchers, policy makers, educators and families.

Inclusive Education Website: <http://www.uni.edu/coe/inclusion/index.html>

developed by a consortium of universities to provide technical assistance and promote better understanding of inclusion.

Inclusive Schools Database: http://www.newhorizons.org/spneeds_intr.html

Institute for Community Inclusion: <http://www.communityinclusion.org/index.html>

is focused on inclusion in school, community, and work life for youth and adults with disabilities.

Disability is Natural: <http://www.disabilityisnatural.com/> Kathie Snow's website which supports the perspective that disability is a natural condition and people with disabilities are not problems that have to be fixed.

National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth: <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/> has information for youth preparing for community-integrated employment.

Norm Kunc website: <http://www.normemma.com> information, resources, and advocacy for inclusive practices and non-coercive practices.

TASH: <http://www.tash.org/> is an international association of people with disabilities, their family members, other advocates, and professionals fighting for a society in which inclusion of all people in all aspects of society is the norm. Site has specific information, resources and research related to inclusive education.

Paraeducator Support: <http://www.uvm.edu/~uapvt/parasupport/shared.html>

Michael Giangreco's work and resources to promote para-educators who are supporting inclusion.