

What is Inclusion?

Inclusion Is:

- All children learning in the same school environment supported by supportive services so that they can be successful in their adjustment and performance
- Having each student's specific needs addressed in the integrated environment of a regular school setting
- All children participating equally in all aspects/functions available within the school
- Educating and providing support for regular classroom teachers who will have disabled children in their classroom
- Educating children to be tolerant of and to respect the differences in each other
- Creating a comfortable environment within which students with and without disabilities can develop healthy social interactions and relationships
- Educating and supporting parents in their concerns
- Allowing parents to participate in the team process responsible for inclusion
- Arranging for appropriate work and educational experiences for disabled children within the community environments
- Using new delivery systems for special education programs that emphasizes collaboration between special education staff and the classroom teachers
- All children learning together in the same environment even though their educational needs and prescribed goals may differ
- Making sure that each child has an appropriate individualized educational program

Inclusion is *not*:

- Dumping children with challenging needs into regular classes without proper supports and services they need to be successful
- Trading the quality of a child's education or the intensive support services the child needs for integration
- Ignoring each child's unique needs
- Sacrificing the education of typical children so that children with challenging needs can be integrated
- All children having to learn the same thing, at the same time, in the same way
- Doing away with or cutting back special education services
- Expecting regular education teachers to teach children who have challenging needs without the support they need to teach children all children effectively
- Locating special education classes in separate wings at regular schools
- Ignoring parent's needs
- Maintaining separate schedules for students in special and regular education