### What is Inclusive Education ? Barriers and Sharing Experiences

Carolyn O'Hearn Alt+Shift



## What is Inclusive Education? Barriers and Sharing Experiences



Alt+Shift is an *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) Grant Funded Initiative through the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education



### If You're Looking for a Good Read:

#### IT'S MORE THAN "Just Being In"

Creating Authentic Inclusion for Students with Complex Support Needs



# *"Inclusion is a right , not a special privilege for a select few."*

Federal Court Oberti v. Board of Education

### What is Inclusive Education?

The definition of inclusion states that all students:

- are presumed competent
- are welcomed as valued members of all general education classes and extra-curricular activities in their local schools
- fully participate and learn alongside their same age peers in general education instruction based on the general education curriculum, and
- experience reciprocal social relationships.

(TASH, n.d., para.l)

Jorgensen, Cheryl M. It's More Than "Just Being In" (p. 1). Brookes Publishing. Kindle Edition.

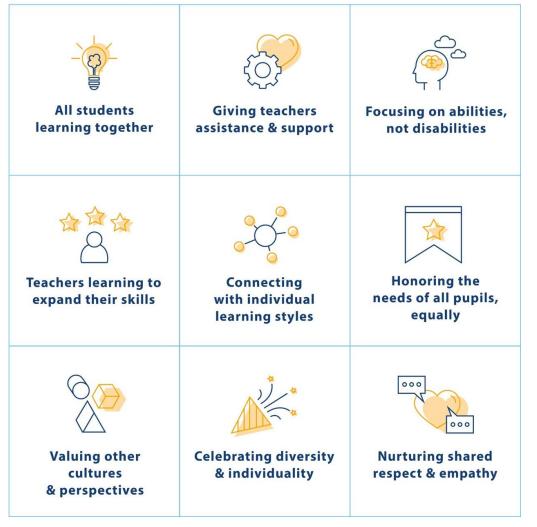
### **IDEA**

"To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, must be educated with children who are not disabled. Further, special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment may occur only when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily."

**Inclusive Learning Environment** 

#### **Everyone fits together in an Inclusive Education classroom**

### Essential Pieces of Inclusive Education



https://onlinedegrees.sandiego.edu/inclusive

-education-strategies/

### **Benefits for ALL Students**

#### With disabilities:

- Meaning ful friendships
- Increased social relationships and networks
- Peer role models for academic, social and behavior skills
- Increased IEP goal achievement
- Greater access to general curriculum
- Increased inclusion in future environments
- Higher expectations
- Increased school collaboration
- Increased parent participation
- Families become more integrated into community

#### Without disabilities:

- Meaningful friendships
- Increased appreciation and acceptance of individual differences
- Increased understanding and acceptance of diversity
- Prepares all students for adult life in an inclusive society
- Opportunities to master activities by practicing and teaching others
- Greater academ ic outcom es

### Inclusive Education is Easier Said Than Done...

#### • Barriers exist.

- "We've always done it this way..."
- "Their diagnosis means they have to..."
- "We're not equipped to..."
- "Your student does X..."
- How can we move past the stigmas, challenges, barriers, hesitancy, (etc!)?
  - Fam ilies
  - Schools
  - Community

### **Breakout Rooms**

### In Your Breakout Rooms:

- Quickly introduce yourselves and your:
  - Child(ren) if you're a parent
  - Role/caseload if you're an educator
- Read through & discuss the guiding questions
  - Encourage equality
  - Be time conscious
  - Embrace vulnerability
- Nominate someone to share out 1 -3 key points when we return as a whole group

**Share Out** 

### Join Us for Future Sessions!

- "Inclusive Education in the IEP Using Assistive Technology"
  - March 10 from 12:00 -1:00pm
- "Inclusive Society: Using AT Beyond the School Day"
  - May 11 from 7:00 -8:00pm

#### We are here to support you!



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Call: 800-552-4821 En Español 313-217-1060 Statewide Email: info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org





### **Michigan Alliance for Families**

Michigan Alliance for Families is an IDEA Grant Funded Initiative of the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education, and Michigan's federal Parent-Training and Information Center (PTIC) funded by U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

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support, and education