



TAKE ACTION ON INCLUSION

for people with intellectual disabilities
and their families



Call to Action: Inclusive Education

We demand that all boys and girls go to school and are included in the same classroom as other children.

Our Key Messages

All Means All

Not “a few”, or “some”, or “most” or “almost everybody”. Not even “all except one”. **Everyone!**

Accessibility does NOT equal inclusion

Getting into school is only the first challenge. Real inclusion means education systems are designed to meet the needs of all students

Better for everyone

Inclusion means supporting teachers to respond to the individual learning needs of all students.



What is inclusive education?

Inclusive education is when all students have the opportunity to have an education in the regular school system. In an inclusive education system:

- Children with and without disabilities attend the same classes with children their own age at their local school.
- Every student gets the extra, individual support that they may need.
- Physical adjustments or accommodations are made so that everyone can participate. For example, ramps instead of stairs and doorways wide enough for wheelchair users.
- The curriculum (what the children learn) is taught in a way that everyone understands.
- Students are taught in classes in which they work together and support one another rather than compete against one another.
- There are smaller class sizes which make sure that the quality of education is good for everyone.
- Children with disabilities are not segregated in the classroom, at lunchtime or on the playground.



What are the key parts of an inclusive education system?

An inclusive education system is more than a collection of inclusive schools. It is a commitment by a government to make sure that **all** school-aged children are in school, that all schools welcome **all** children, which

all children's needs are met, and that school staff have the assistance they need to help every child succeed in school.



To make this happen the key parts are:

- One education ministry is responsible for all students of the same age and level of education.
- Students go to the same school they would have attended if they did not have a disability.
- Students are educated with their non-disabled classmates.
- Students receive the support they need to take part and learn.
- Teachers are trained and supported on how to make sure their teaching is right for each student and they teach using different methods for each student based on the way they learn.

- Schools value diversity. This means that the school values every person and accepts and respects differences.
- Schools have the financial support and the trained staff it needs to be inclusive.

What is not inclusive education?

- Placing students with disabilities in regular classes without support is NOT inclusion.
- Grouping students with disabilities together in a resource room or separate classroom in a regular school is NOT inclusion.
- Providing all of a child's education at home is NOT inclusion.
- Focusing on life skills instead of regular academic classes is NOT inclusion.
- Guiding secondary students with disabilities into vocational programmes (for example, catering), rather than giving everyone the option and support to follow any other route is NOT inclusion.

How do students with disabilities benefit?

Students with disabilities who have been in the least inclusive settings are more likely to perform worse than students who are included.

Students with disabilities who have been included in school:

- are healthier (as inclusion increases, so does health),
- perform better at school,
- are more likely to look forward to going to school,
- are more likely to be included and be part of their communities after graduation,
- are more likely to have employment and make use of community leisure activities.



How do students without disabilities benefit?

Evidence shows that:

- When teachers understand how to teach students who learn in different ways it helps them to better meet the needs of all students.

- Inclusive education strengthens the education system, and makes sure all children are able to live, learn, and play together.
- Encouraging children to work and support one another benefits everyone.
- Inclusive education gives all children the chance to learn, accept and value one another's abilities, talents, personalities, and needs.



More information

- Inclusion International *Catalyst for Inclusive Education* resources can be found here:
<https://www.catalystforeducation.com/resources/>
- UNICEF Inclusive Education resources can be accessed online at: <http://www.inclusive-education.org/basic-page/inclusive-education-booklets-and-webinars>