

DELAWARE'S
Inclusive
Schools
Initiative



ISI

WHAT IS INCLUSION?

Inclusion ensures that students with disabilities attend school along with their typical peers and neighbors while receiving whatever specialized instruction and support they need to succeed as learners.



WHAT IS AN INCLUSIVE SCHOOL?

It is a place where:

- ◊ Everyone belongs
- ◊ Everyone is accepted
- ◊ Everyone learns
- ◊ Everyone is supported while having their educational needs met
- ◊ Everyone includes: ALL children, families and educators

INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS

- ◊ Have an inviting atmosphere and value diversity
- ◊ Use collaborative teaching and allow for flexible student groupings
- ◊ Apply universal design for learning and differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all learners
- ◊ Offer accommodations and modifications to support each student
- ◊ Hold all students to high standards

WHAT PARENTS SAY ABOUT INCLUSION

"When we talk about inclusion, the discussion shouldn't be about 'whether to include or not', but 'how.'"

"I want our world, our state, our school districts to be ready for my child with a disability."

"Inclusive schools teach tolerance and acceptance of those with differences."

"Inclusion opens the door to academic opportunities for all children."

"Inclusion is not about rights, it is about doing the right thing."



BENEFITS OF INCLUSION

- ◊ Children learn together and from one another
- ◊ Children learn to generalize skills within a natural environment
- ◊ Inclusive practices benefit ALL students
- ◊ Natural friendships develop at school and the community
- ◊ Inclusive schools promote inclusive communities
- ◊ Students who are included in general education classrooms have improved academic and social outcomes

ISI VISION

The vision for systems change through the Delaware Inclusive Schools Initiative is that:

- ◊ All students with disabilities have the opportunity to participate in general education settings and activities alongside their typical peers.
- ◊ Both students with disabilities and those without have positive social and educational outcomes.

Helpful Websites:

www.doe.k12.de.us

www.picofdel.org

www.peakparentcenter.org

www.inclusiveschools.org

www.nichcy.org

www.k8accesscenter.org

www.inclusion.com

www.wrightslaw.com

www.kidsincludedtogether.org



ISI IS A PARTNERSHIP

The Delaware Inclusive School Initiative is a collaborative effort among the Delaware Department of Education /Exceptional Children /Early Childhood Education Group, Delaware public schools, the University of Delaware Center for Disabilities Studies and the Parent Information Center of Delaware.

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