



SPIN NEWS

The Newsletter for Parents of Children with Special Needs

SPECIAL
PARENT
INFORMATION
NETWORK

2018-19 School Year Special Edition

SPIN is co-sponsored by the Disability & Communication Access Board and the Department of Education. Services include a phone line for information referral and support, a quarterly newsletter, an annual conference and community workshops. SPIN is guided by an Advisory Committee made up of parents, professionals and people with disabilities.

SPIN

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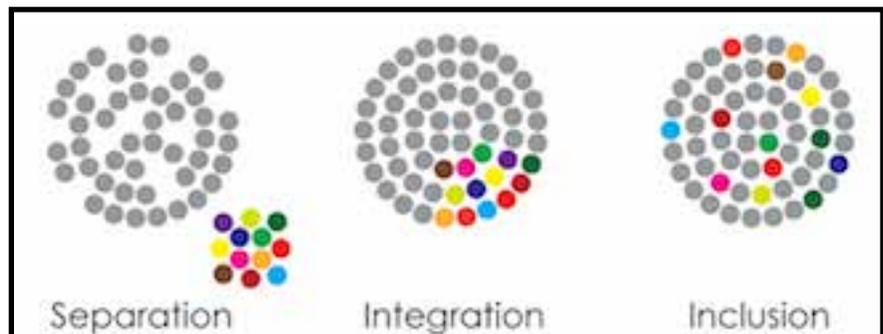
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Inclusive Education: Moving Hawaii Forward

The concepts of inclusion have been around for more than 30 years and there have been numerous efforts to include Hawaii's students with disabilities in the general education classroom for most or all of the school day. When inclusion efforts fail, it may be due to:

- ✓ a lack of buy-in and commitment from educational leadership;

Inclusive schools have a collaborative and respectful school culture where students with disabilities are presumed to be competent, develop positive social relationships with peers and are fully participating members of the school community. Inclusion brings the support services to the student (instead of the moving the student to the services) and requires



- ✓ inadequate teacher preparation and classroom supports;
- ✓ little or no time for planning; &
- ✓ parent misgivings.

Hawaii's Superintendent, Dr. Christina Kishimoto, defines inclusion as 'all students have the opportunity to be educated in the general education classroom to the greatest extent - expectations are high and instruction is standards based. Inclusive education provides general education curriculum and personalized supports as needed' and '... occurs when a student with a disability successfully engages in the same learning environment with the same learning opportunities as his/her classmates.'

only that the student will benefit from being in the class, rather than having to "keep up" with the other students.

This special edition will tackle some of the myths of inclusion, take a look at the benefits and show ways we can advocate for inclusive practices in our classrooms and schools.

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Busting Myths

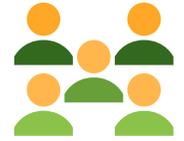
About Inclusive Education



1

MYTH: Students who can't keep up academically should not be included.

FACT: Students with IEPs do not need to be able to meet the exact same grade level standards in order to be successfully educated in the general education classroom, but they do need to be held to the same high expectations.



2

MYTH: Extra support to some students isn't fair to the others in the class.

FACT: *Equality* means providing the same experience to every student. On the other hand, *equity*—which is the stated goal of our public schools—requires providing individualized supports based on the unique needs of the student.



3

MYTH: Inclusion hurts the achievement of typical students.

FACT: As a rule, students without disabilities learn as much or more in inclusive classrooms. They may benefit from differentiated instruction, a diverse learning environment and an improved understanding for student differences.



4

MYTH: Students with significant disabilities won't get the support they need.

FACT: Inclusion means providing supports so that *each and every* student feels a sense of belonging, meets high expectations, develops meaningful social relationships, and leaves school ready for post-secondary education and a career.



5

MYTH: Inclusion always costs a lot more money.

FACT: A number of research studies have shown that while start-up costs may initially increase the cost of inclusive services, the costs over time decrease, and are likely to be less than more restrictive placements. Inclusion requires schools to examine how to best use all available resources, including peers.



6

MYTH: Parents don't support inclusive education.

FACT: Parents have been the strongest advocates for inclusion. Some parents may not have been educated about the benefits of inclusive education and become strong supporters once their children experience quality inclusion.





Differentiated Instruction

All students learn differently. Teachers use a variety of tools like Universal Design for Learning, manipulatives, smart boards and technology to provide all students with a means to engage and absorb the curriculum in a variety of ways.



Peer to Peer Interactions

When students learn together, they learn to live together. Inclusive classrooms build and maintain friendships, grow empathy and reduce stigma for students with a disability. Peer tutoring has been shown to provide academic & social benefit to the tutor as well as the student who is tutored.



A Culture of Belonging

Inclusion fosters a culture of respect and belonging for all students and provides the opportunities for acceptance of individual differences. Parents become more involved and invested in the school when their children are learning in the same classrooms.

Benefits of Inclusion



Higher Expectations

Having access to the general education curriculum will increase a student's exposure to more challenging content as they work toward grade level standards. Inclusive practices can raise the bar on what we expect from students with disabilities and give them the confidence they need to succeed.



Effective Use of Resources

In traditional classrooms, many students are 'pulled out' for services like speech, reading and specialized instruction. By bringing the specialists into the classroom, more than one student can benefit from the instructional strategies used by specialists visiting the classroom.



Improved Behavior

Ideally, inclusive classrooms use Positive Behavior Supports to set behavioral expectations for all students and to provide early intervention when problems arise. Students with disabilities also benefit from having positive role models for behavior.

Inclusion does not have to be an "all or nothing" approach to a student's school day. If you're hesitant about your child being in an inclusive classroom, look at the child's interests to place them in 1 or 2 classes with their gen-ed peers.

- [SPED Task Force Report](#)
- [Strategic Plan Inclusion Indicator](#)
- [SEAC's Inclusion Vision](#)

- Workshops on inclusion
- Meet other parents
- Network with teachers
- Find inclusion resources

Talk to your child about being in an inclusive classroom. They may be nervous at first, especially if they have always been separated from their peers. Let them know they will be okay, and the supports they need will be there for them.

Follow Inclusion Initiatives

Attend the SPIN Conference

Look Up Existing Inclusion Policy

- [Board of Education Inclusion Policy](#)
- [Early Childhood Inclusion Policy Statement](#)

Advocate for Inclusion

Ask for Inclusion in the IEP

- Come prepared
- Know your rights
- Ask if IEP goals can be met in the gen-ed class with supports
- Partner with teacher(s) and other team members

Take a Class from LDAH

- IDEA/IEP workshop
- Small group help on IEP
- Parent training and information

Online Learning

- [The Inclusive Class](#)
- [Understood](#)
- [PBS Parents](#)
- [Parent Center Hub](#)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS...



8/4 Oahu: Sensor-Friendly Film “Teen Titans Go! To the Movies”
 9:00 - 11:00 am, \$13 parents, \$5 siblings, free for children with autism. Sponsored by the Autism Society of Hawaii. Olinos Consolidated Theater, Kapolei. For more info visit www.austismsocietyofhawaii.org.

8/10 SEAC - Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Puuhale Elementary School, 345 Puuhale Rd., Honolulu. For more info, call 586-8126 or visit www.seac-hawaii.org.

8/4 AccessSurf Day at the Beach
 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, FREE
 A day of fun at Kualoa Regional Park. Visit www.accessurf.org to sign up.



8/15 Honolulu District Families Embracing Autism Support Group “All About Section 504” Sponsored by Leadership in Disabilities and Achievement Hawaii.
 6:00 - 7:00 pm, free parking & childcare. 245 N. Kukui Street, Honolulu. RSVP for childcare by calling 536-9684.

8/4 Back to School Train Ride
 Sponsored by Autism Society of Hawaii
 12:00 - 1:30 pm, \$10 adults, \$9 children, under 2 free if sitting on your lap.
 Hawaiian Railway Society
 91-1001 Renton Road, Ewa Beach
 Visit www.autismsocietyofhawaii.org for tickets



9/22 Honolulu Theater for Youth
 Sensory friendly/ASL performance of “Filipino Folktales & Fables” for ages 6+
 Tenney Theater, 229 Queen Emma Square, Honolulu. Visit www.htyweb.org for tickets.
 11:00 am, \$20 adult, \$10 youth 3-18

8/8 Epilepsy Foundation Talk Story
 “Hawaii Research in Epilepsy Treatment”
 5:30 - 7:30 pm, FREE, The event can also be viewed on Facebook Live. 200 N. Vineyard Blvd, 5th Floor Conference Room. For info, call 528-3058 or email efh@epilepsyhawaii.org.

SAVE THE DATE



October 20, 2018
8:30 am - 12:00 noon
Radford High School

Take the next steps in developing a transition plan for your teen. Hear stories from students on their path to success, network with other families walking in your shoes and talk story with community resources and organizations.

To register, call 586-8126 or visit www.footstepstotransition.weebly.com to sign up online.

8/9 Lanai Health & Wellness Event
 Sponsored by Leadership in Disabilities and Achievement (LDAH) FREE
 2:30 - 5:30 pm, Lanai High & Elementary School. Developmental & hearing screening, resource fair, and more. For info, call 696-5361.

