

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.

