



**INCLUSION FACT SHEET**

**What is inclusion?**

- When children with disabilities are included, they learn in a regular classroom in their neighborhood school with their same-age peers and friends, some who have disabilities and some who don't.
- *Inclusion is not a "trade-off" for special education services* – students who are included still receive the special education and related services that they need to meet their IEP goals; they just receive them in the regular classroom.

**Why should students with disabilities be included?**

- Students who are included in school are more likely to be included in life – they don't feel different, separated, excluded, or discriminated against.
- Students who are included are exposed to more diverse and challenging information and have a higher rate of independence in adulthood.
- Students who are included gain important role models in learning skills like behaving appropriately and communicating with their peers and adults.
- Students without disabilities learn about disabilities and how to accept people who are different than they are.
- The services provided to students with disabilities can help all students in the classroom.
- The regular classroom teacher has access to more resources, which helps all students.

**Won't my child get a better education if he learns with children who have the same disability?**

- Studies have consistently shown that students who learn in segregated settings where all students have a disability are more likely to be dependent on others for their care as an adult – they are less likely to successfully live on their own, less likely to have competitive jobs, and more likely to feel different and excluded from their community.
- Students who are included learn real-life and real-world skills that they don't usually learn in a segregated setting so it helps them to be more independent when they are no longer children and no longer in school.

*For more information, call ULS at (202) 547-0198*