



## CACL and the Provincial/Territorial and Local Associations throughout Canada

The Canadian Association for Community Living is a Canada-wide association of family members and others working for the benefit of persons of all ages who have an intellectual disability.

Founded in 1958 by parents of children with intellectual disabilities who wanted supports and services within the community instead of in institutions, CACL has become one of Canada's 10 largest charitable organizations, and has grown into a federation of 10 provincial and three territorial associations comprising 420 local associations and over 40 000 members.

### Partners

CACL works strategically with other disability rights organizations. In education we work with various groups including:

- The Canadian Teachers Federation
- The Canadian Education Association

## Inclusive Education Website [www.inclusiveeducation.ca](http://www.inclusiveeducation.ca)

This web site promotes the Canadian vision for inclusive education. It has been designed as a meeting place for parents, family members, teachers, education officials and community members who are committed to making inclusive education a reality in our communities. It is organized in three areas: **Advocate; Learn; Engage.**

### Contact the Provincial/Territorial ACL in your area: [www.cacl.ca](http://www.cacl.ca)

Canadian Association for Community Living  
Kinsmen Building, York University  
4700 Keele Street  
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

Telephone: (416) 661-9611  
Fax: (416) 661-5701  
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# inclusion Q & A

### Why is inclusive education important?

It's important because as Canadians, we value our diverse communities. These communities start at school, where all students learn to live alongside peers. They learn together; they play together; they grow and are nurtured together.

### Is inclusive education for everybody?

The simple answer is YES. However, individual needs may mean that some students need to spend time out of regular class for a particular purpose. There are always exceptions, but they are in fact **EXCEPTIONS**: if needed, they are individualized in the student's community school.

### How can I make the school in my community more inclusive?

Ask your school principal what is being done to support teachers to include students with diverse needs in the classroom.

### What should I expect?

You can expect the school to provide a plan to support teachers and students through good inclusive practices —like collaboration, team work, innovative instructional practices, peer-strategies, and more.

### How can I keep up with information on inclusive education?

Visit our website regularly —  
[www.inclusiveeducation.ca](http://www.inclusiveeducation.ca)

# inclusive education



Diversity includes.



## what is inclusive education?

Inclusive education means that all students attend and are welcomed by their neighbourhood schools in age-appropriate, regular classes and are supported to learn, contribute and participate in all aspects of the life of the school.

Inclusive education is about how we develop and design our schools, classrooms, programs and activities so that all students learn and participate together.

## what does inclusive education mean?

Inclusive education means that all students are educated in regular classrooms. It does not mean that individual students cannot leave the classroom for specific reasons. A student may require one-on-one assistance in a particular subject area.

When an education system is inclusive, serious thought is given to how often a student may be outside of a regular classroom and the reasons that this may happen. This pull-out is not encouraged and must be very limited and for a time-limited purpose. It does not mean that students with certain characteristics are grouped together in separated classrooms for all or part of the school day.

Within regular classrooms, opportunities are developed for all students to learn together even though some students may have different education goals. An inclusive education system does not separate certain students within regular classrooms.

## benefits of inclusive education

All children benefit from inclusive education. It allows them to:

- Develop individual strengths and gifts, with high and appropriate expectations for each child.
- Work on individual goals while participating in the life of the classroom with other students their own age.
- Involve their parents in their education and in the activities of their local schools.
- Foster a school culture of respect and belonging. Inclusive education provides opportunities to learn about and accept individual differences, lessening the impact of harassment and bullying.
- Develop friendships with a wide variety of other children, each with their own individual needs and abilities.
- Positively effect both their school and community to appreciate diversity and inclusion on a broader level.



## positive steps toward inclusive education

- Accept all children into regular classes and into the life of the school.
- Provide as much support to students, teachers and classrooms as necessary.
- Look at all students for what they can do rather than what they cannot do.
- Develop educational goals according to a child's individual abilities while understanding that students do not need to have the same educational goals to learn together in regular classes.
- Restructure schools and classes in ways that focus on individuals reaching their potential.
- Have strong leadership from school principals and administrators.
- Have teachers knowledgeable about different ways of teaching and learning so that students with varying abilities and strengths can learn together.
- Have principals, teachers, parents, students and others work collaboratively to determine the most effective ways of providing a quality education in an inclusive environment.
- Take parents seriously — especially parents dreams and goals for their child's future.