

Know your education system chain of command to more effectively advocate for your child.

Provincial/Territorial Government (Premier)

Ministry of Education (Minister)

School District/Division/Board (Trustees, Superintendents)

School (Principal, Vice-Principal, School Staff)

Classroom (Teacher)

Advocacy

Actively supporting the inclusive education of your child by...

- Keeping the best interests of your child front and foremost.
- Accepting that there will be differences in opinions or positions on how inclusive education happens.
- Working together with members of the education system to resolve these differences.
- Supporting common interests or motivations.
- Finding champions for inclusive education within your school community.
- Enlisting the help of others when you are experiencing difficulties.

Questions to ask yourself when experiencing a problem?

- What is bothering me?
- Why is it bothering me? Does it compromise my belief/value system?
- How does it make my child feel?
- When did it start?
- How long has it been going on?
- Who is involved?
- Do I have the time to pursue a solution to it?
- What will happen if I don't solve this problem?
- Are my emotions clouding my judgment?
- Do I feel empowered to act on my child's behalf?
- Are there complicating factors that need to be taken into account? (e.g. lack of knowledge about how the system works, the mixing up of several different people with different responsibilities, etc.)
- Do I have the energy to pursue this issue at the present time?

"...Education of persons with disabilities must foster their participation in society, their sense of dignity and self worth and the development of their personality, abilities and creativity..."

United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, 2007

who can you call for help?

The Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) and the Provincial/Territorial and Local Associations throughout Canada are here to help.

CACL is a national association of family members and others working for the benefit of persons of all ages who have an intellectual disability.

We are here to help you as you negotiate the educational system and we work strategically with other disability rights organizations to promote our vision for inclusive education.

Inclusive Education Website
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

 Canadian Association for Community Living
Diversity includes.

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

Telephone: (416) 661-9611
Fax: (416) 661-5701
email: inform@cacl.ca

a parent's guide to inclusive education

 50 years
Canadian Association for Community Living



Diversity includes.



our vision for inclusive education in Canada...

Inclusive education means that all students are educated in regular classrooms, with their same-aged peers. It does not mean that individual students cannot leave the classroom for specific reasons. A student may need 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 time-limited for a specific 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 educational goals. An inclusive education system does not separate certain students within regular classrooms.

what is inclusive education?

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

Inclusive education happens when all students can attend and are welcomed into 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.

...inclusion and parents...

your child's education plan

Who should be around the table?



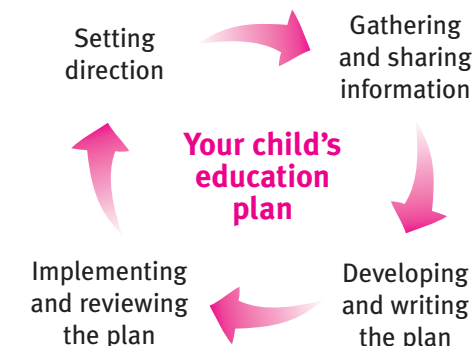
How do you participate?

- Clearly explain your child's needs and expectations.
- Partner with teachers to work towards goals.
- Advocate for supports for your child and their teachers.
- Share information.
- Apply your child's learning at home and with activities in the community.

Collaborative planning

Working together, as a team to...

1. Participate in effective meetings
2. Share meaningful information and skills
3. Solve problems and address issues as they arise
4. Make decisions by mutual agreement
5. Work out any differences or disagreements that may arise



Conflict resolution

- Know what the problem is
- Find out the causes of the problem
- Produce and think about alternatives
- Decide and begin working on a course of action
- Check back for success



Diversity includes.