

SAMPLE INCLUSION MISSION STATEMENT FOR A PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Whereas the _____ Board of Education is committed to the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the provision of a high-quality, free, appropriate, public education in the least restrictive environment to all students with disabilities in the _____ Public Schools, regardless of age, disability, placement, race, gender, language, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, or other student or family characteristic, and

Whereas the IDEA-Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, require the inclusion of children with disabilities in settings with their non-disabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate, and

Whereas the _____ Board of Education is committed to the well-being of all _____ students, including students with disabilities, and

Whereas, research shows that inclusion is beneficial for children with and without special needs, families, and communities, and

Whereas, the children of today will be the adults of tomorrow, living in a world that prohibits discrimination, and they need to start learning now how to get along together as people with and without disabilities, and

Whereas, we cannot legislate attitudes, but we can create opportunities for children with and without special needs to learn how to live, work and play together, and

Whereas, every child is a part of a family, a neighborhood, a community, and

Whereas, children are more alike than different, and all children need love, acceptance, recreation, education, and a chance to belong,

Be It Therefore Resolved that the _____ Board of Education adopts the following **Mission Statement on Inclusion**.

The _____ Public Schools are schools of inclusion. Inclusion is the opportunity for all children, regardless of disability, to be included, accepted, and valued:

- In age-appropriate settings*
- In their communities*
- In natural proportions with their non-disabled peers*
- With all necessary supports and services.*

And be it also resolved that the _____ Board of Education shall take all appropriate and necessary steps to increase and enhance the appropriate inclusion of children with disabilities throughout the _____ Public Schools, from age 3 through 21, including ensuring that:

- ❑ The full Individualized Education Program for each child is developed collaboratively by parents and Child Study Team members prior to a discussion of placement;
- ❑ Once the IEP is developed, the first consideration for placement is the general education classroom, with supports;
- ❑ No child with a disability is denied the opportunity for supported inclusion solely due to disability category, severity of disability, other characteristics, or lack of availability of supports;
- ❑ Every child who is included is provided with the supports, services, accommodations, and modifications needed to be successful (academically, emotionally, socially, and physically) in their general education setting;
- ❑ High-quality, effective supports and services, including, as needed, assistive technology, related services, positive behavior supports, extended school year services, and qualified professionals and aides, are available to support the inclusion of children with disabilities; and
- ❑ Every public school community in _____ is welcoming and supportive of all students with disabilities who are included in general education classes, extracurricular or non-academic activities, and/or in the public school building, and their families.