

NEIU 19's Early Intervention Program Inclusion Position Statement

Program Values

- Enable all students to learn in their Least Restricted Environments (LRE) with appropriate Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) and Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) that correlate with the PA PreK Standards.
- Provide preschool regular education teachers and preschool special education teachers with the appropriate materials and training to ensure a comfortable environment to enhance all students learning in their Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and/or an inclusive setting.
- Professional development activities and collaborative planning are an essential part of the inclusion process. Professional development includes updated information on state policies and guidelines including IDEA, Chapter 14, and NCLB.
- All co-teachers will be able to feel comfortable in their collaborative working environments, which will encourage intrinsic motivation and a rewarding experience for all.

Priority for Inclusion and Benefits

Benefits for Students with Disabilities

- Affords a sense of belonging
- Provides a stimulating environment for growth
- Evolves an identity as a member of a community
- Enables social skills development
- Provides opportunities to develop neighborhood friends
- Enhances self-respect and concepts of self-awareness
- Provides peer role models

Benefits for Typically Developing Peers

- Provides opportunities to experience diversity of society
- Develops an appreciation that everyone has unique characteristics and abilities
- Develops respect for others with diverse characteristics and abilities
- Develops sensitivity towards others' limitations
- Increases abilities for help others
- Develops capacity for empathy