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## The Benefits of Inclusive Education

### For Students/Parents:

- **Students with Disabilities Succeed in Inclusive Classrooms:** The Individualized Education Programs (IEP's) of students with disabilities who are placed in general education classrooms, contain more academic objectives, improved quality of the curricular content, and more references to best practices than IEP's developed for students in segregated settings.
- **Students without Disabilities Succeed in Inclusive Classrooms:** A common criticism of inclusive education is that the placement of students with disabilities in general education classrooms will negatively impact the achievement of peers without disabilities. However, studies that have directly examined this issue have found that there is no meaningful impact on academic performance of students without disabilities when students with severe disabilities are included in general education classes.
- **Inclusive Classrooms Outpace Segregated Classrooms:** Studies have found that the instruction provided to students in inclusive educational settings is comparable or superior to the instruction provided to students in separate educational settings. Further, the more time students spend in general education classes the more likely it is that they will participate in instruction that is aligned with the general education curriculum.

## For Educators:

- **Inclusive Classrooms Increase Teachers Confidence:** Educators believe that educating students with disabilities in inclusive settings results in positive change in their attitudes and job responsibilities. In addition, teachers show increased confidence and professional growth in ability to accommodate more diverse learners in their classrooms.
- **Inclusive Classrooms Foster Collaborative Working Arrangements:** Educators not only have high expectations for all students, but they also believe that they (the educators) can gain the knowledge and skills they need to effectively teach all students by engaging in collaborative working arrangements with other educators and family members.
- **Inclusive Classrooms Foster Collaborative Teaming:** The collaborative teaming process provides opportunities for general and special educators and family members to share their knowledge, skills, and experience to identify strategies to individualize learning, increase students' engagement in educational activities, and support development of positive social relationships.

## Beyond the ABC's

- **Inclusive Classrooms Improve Friendship and Social Connections:** Compared to students in segregated classroom settings, students with disabilities who are full-time members of general education classrooms show significantly higher levels of engagement in school activities, higher levels in participation of integrated school environments and initiate and engage in social interactions with peers and adults to a greater degree.
- **Inclusive Classrooms Yield a Lifetime of Benefits:** Including individuals with disabilities in the community is a crucial component to increasing opportunities for social connections. In a literature review of community participation of people with intellectual disabilities, there was one consistent conclusion: people with intellectual disabilities living in community settings have greater participation in major life activities, including education, employment and community engagement than those living in segregated settings.