

Inclusive Schools Week™

Great things happen in inclusive schools™.

Save the Date:
December 1-5, 2008 is the
8th Annual Inclusive Schools Week!

Inclusive Schools Week News

Volume 4, No. 2, February 2008

Inclusive Schools Week™ highlights and celebrates the progress our schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to all students, particularly those who have disabilities and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. It also provides an important opportunity for educators, students, and parents to discuss what else needs to be done in order to ensure that their schools continue to improve their ability to successfully educate all children and youth. ISW News is your source for updates and information about the Week--and other resources and events related to building more welcoming and supportive schools and communities.

"Inclusive Schools Week energized our commitment to implementing best practices for all students."
Participant, 2007 Inclusive Schools Week

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Inclusive Schools Network: Connecting Families, Schools, and Communities throughout the World

Inclusive Schools Week will expand its mission with the launch of the ***Inclusive Schools Network (ISN)*** in 2008. The ***Inclusive Schools Network*** will serve as a year round web-based resource for families, schools, and communities interested in the topic of inclusive education. While establishing an international network and resource center focusing on inclusive schooling around the world, ***ISN*** will offer new products, online events, and conferences. Look for upcoming news including information about membership opportunities

for districts, schools, and individuals at www.inclusiveschools.org or email Kristen Layton at KLayton@edc.org.

Resource

Daily Lesson Plans

The New York Times Learning Network offers free daily lesson plans and lesson plan units that use recent New York Times articles as the context for teaching current events and other curricular based topics. The lesson plans present new and exciting ways to engage students in learning through problem solving, games, activities, and simulations. The lessons can be adapted for a variety of learning styles and are a wonderful way to introduce a wide range of interesting topics. Some examples of current lesson plans available on the site include: Feeling Different, Understanding Social and Emotional Issues Surrounding Attention Deficit Disorder, Check Mate: Learning Strategic Thinking through Playing Chess, and Play to Learn: Using Math to Design an Innovative Playground. Find these and other lessons at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/index.html>

Events

Inclusive Middle and High Schools: Save the Date!!

The *Inclusive Schools Network*, in collaboration with the University of Central Florida, will host a 2008 Conference, "**Developing High Performing, Inclusive Secondary Schools**". The conference will focus on practical classroom applications to support students with disabilities at the middle and high school levels within the general education setting. Participants will engage in lectures, learning activities, and facilitated action planning sessions during each seminar day as well as have a chance to dialogue with other educators about effective practices.

The program will commence with a two-day institute during **the week of July 23, 2008** and will include a two-day follow-up seminar in the fall in Orlando, Florida. The conference brochure will be available soon on our Web site at www.inclusiveschools.org and in the next edition of this newsletter. For more information, please email Kristen Layton at KLayton@edc.org or call 617-618-2958.

Europe in Action 2008

The European Conference on Inclusive Education for Young People with Disabilities

The sixth annual conference of Inclusion Europe focuses on policies and practices that support the implementation of inclusive education for all. The main topics of the conference will be: education objectives for young people and families, structure and organization of inclusive schools, and the policies, structures and systems of inclusive education. Lebenshilfe Austria and Inclusion Europe invite all interested self-advocates, parents, and professionals to this important event. It will take place on April 10-12, 2008 in the Kardinal König Haus, Vienna. There will be opportunities for interactive communication in focus groups, project presentations, and discussion units. The conference will be partly accessible for people with intellectual disabilities. Interpretation in English and German will be available. For agenda and registration information visit <http://www.inclusion-europe.org/>.

Tip of the Month

Scheduling for Success: Common Planning Time

Common planning time among educators is a crucial element in the success of an inclusive school. Planning time helps improve instruction by allowing teachers to share best practices, look at students' work, and plan curriculum and lessons together. In order for planning to contribute meaningfully to curriculum development and implementation, sufficient time should be built into the schedule rather than carved out of before and after school time.

Common planning time should be considered a district-wide and school-wide matter. The ideas on the [inclusiveschools.com](http://www.inclusiveschools.com) Web site can assist districts, schools, and individual teachers to maximize the time and resources that they have available. Not all of the ideas listed will be viable in every situation. It is suggested that districts, schools and teams use these tips as a springboard for further discussion.

For ideas on how to make common planning time work in your school visit:
www.inclusiveschools.org.

Inclusive Practices around the World

Responding to Learner Diversity in the European Union

Funded by the European Union, teacher educators from seven EU countries: the Universities of Malta, Amsterdam (Netherlands), Dalarna (Sweden), Leipzig (Germany), Manchester (UK), Marijampole (Lithuania), and the NGO Motivace-zivotni styl (Czech Republic), came together to produce multicultural and multimedia teacher education materials for online and face-to-face courses on responding to pupil diversity. The materials consist of a teacher's handbook, DVD with readings and video clips, and a tutor's manual. They can serve as a basis for teacher education through reflective practice in opening up to and understanding and responding to the diversity of strengths and needs of students in the classroom. They reflect the experience of a varied international group of practitioners in different European countries and up-to-date research on teaching and learning.

The handbook, DVD, and tutor's manual are available to download for free from:
www.dtmp.org.

Support the Week

Here's how YOU can make a difference

Your purchase of products or tax-deductible contribution supports the work we are doing to support families, schools, and communities around the world to create awareness, build knowledge, and encourage systems change toward more inclusive educational opportunities for all children. We are a nonprofit, 501 (c) (3) organization, and we would be extremely grateful for your support! Celebration Kits, posters, pencils, and much more are available for purchase—and are useable anytime of year. Order now to distribute these materials at your upcoming workshops and professional meetings: <https://www.inclusiveschools.org/order.cfm>. Download and return your contribution form today:
<http://www.inclusiveschools.org/support.cfm>

Inclusive Schools Week[™] is an initiative of Education Development Center, Inc. and is celebrated annually the first week in December by schools, professional organizations, and cultural associations across the country and abroad.

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