



Inclusive Schools Network News

August 2008

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Inclusive Schools Network

"Supporting Inclusive Education Worldwide"

The Inclusive Schools Network (ISN) is a web-based resource for families, schools, and communities interested in the topic of inclusive education. This network has grown out of Inclusive Schools Week™, an internationally-recognized, annual event sponsored by Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC). During the 2008-2009 school year, ISN will be expanding in capacity to offer new products, conferences, online events, and social networking opportunities.



Inclusive Schools Network News is your source for updates and information about the Inclusive Schools Network, Inclusive Schools Week, and other resources and events related to building more welcoming and supportive schools and communities. Click below to subscribe:

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

ISN Events:

Inclusive Schools Week 2008!

"Together We Learn Better: Inclusive Schools Benefit All Children"

The Inclusive Schools Network is pleased to announce that the 8th Annual Inclusive Schools Week will be held December 1-5, 2008. Inclusive Schools Week is an annual event that highlights the accomplishments of families, schools, and communities that have dedicated time, labor, and resources to promoting inclusive education for all of the world's children. This year's theme, "Together We Learn Better: Inclusive Schools Benefit All Children", provides an opportunity to focus on the advantages of inclusive schools in providing a quality education and better educational outcomes for *ALL* students.

Inclusive Schools Week is an event sponsored by the Inclusive Schools Network (ISN) and Education Development Center, Inc. Since its inception in 2001, Inclusive Schools Week has celebrated the progress that schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to an increasingly diverse student population, including students who are marginalized due to disability, gender, socio-economic status, cultural heritage, language preference and other factors.

The Week 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.

The 2008 Celebration Kit, including celebration ideas, lesson plans, sample support documents and a variety of resources will be available at www.inclusiveschools.org in September 2008. Highlights include a report, resources and events focusing on the benefits of inclusive education for all children.

For more information about the Inclusive Schools Network and Inclusive Schools Week, please visit www.inclusiveschools.org or email inclusiveschools@edc.org. Be sure to sign up for Inclusive Schools Network News for regular updates as well as other news and information related to building schools and communities that are welcoming of all children and youth.

Other Events:

2008 Global Summit on Education: Inclusive Practices for Students with Disabilities

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is hosting a Global Summit on Education with the topic "Inclusive Practices for Students with Disabilities" September 19-20, 2008. The Summit will be held in Washington, D.C., and will bring together education leaders from across the country and around the world.

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According to the 2008 Global Summit on Education website: "The purpose of the 2008 Global Summit is to bring together educational leaders, disability advocates, educators, academics, and government officials to:

- connect with colleagues to promote an international dialogue,
- gather valuable tools and resources to continue building academic opportunities for students with disabilities, and
- share successes and challenges from a global perspective."

For more information on the agenda and registration for this important event, please visit the website:

<https://www.osep-meeting.org/2008globalsummit/default.aspx>.

Resources:

The Sloan Work and Family Research Network

The Sloan Work and Family Research Network has developed a new Topic Page about "Parents Caring for Children with Disabilities". Resources on this page include a fact sheet, statistics, readings, and other information aimed at raising awareness and supporting more inclusive and family-friendly workplaces and communities.

Working families caring for children with significant disabilities need the support of their employers. They need workplace flexibility that allows them the time to attend meetings at school and health care appointments, and to deal with other added demands and emergencies as they arise. Statistics show that these families have both lower employment rates and higher rates of poverty. Flexible workplaces can help ease the strain on families who are caring for children with significant disabilities. In addition, employers offering greater flexibility may benefit because they are more likely to retain these employees.

To read more about this common yet hidden problem, visit the Topic page at:

<http://wfnetwork.bc.edu/topic.php?id=40>.

For quick reference, you can also download their new fact sheet here:

http://wfnetwork.bc.edu/pdfs/Child_Disability.pdf.

Tip of the Month:

Celebrate the 2008 Inclusive Schools Week Theme! **"Together We Learn Better: Inclusive Schools Benefit All Children"**

The start of the school year is the perfect time to begin planning your Inclusive Schools Week celebration. Consider focusing your 2008 celebration on this year's ISW theme "Together We Learn Better: Inclusive Schools Benefit All Children".

Inclusive Schools Week offers a great opportunity to spread the word about the benefits of inclusive schools. Check out the following ISW celebration ideas to make this year's event the best yet!

- Host a poster and essay contest focused on the theme "Together We Learn Better: Inclusive Schools Benefit All Children".
- Write an op-ed in a newspaper about the benefits of inclusive education in your community.
- Offer a briefing paper to staff, families and the community highlighting the benefits of being an inclusive school.
- Create a slideshow highlighting the benefits of your inclusive school community to be viewed at parent meetings, faculty meetings, community events, etc.
- Contact the local news media to suggest a story about the benefits of inclusive education.
- Write a "Top 10 Benefits of Being an Inclusive School" list to display in the school lobby.

Visit the **Tip of the Month** section of the Inclusive Schools website for more suggestions on celebrating Inclusive Schools Week, and to view past Tips:

<http://www.inclusiveschools.org/tips>

Inclusive Practices Around the World:

UNESCO Conference on Inclusive Education

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will host the 48th session of the International Conference on Education (ICE) this year on the topic: **"Inclusive Education: the Way of the Future"**. This conference, organized by UNESCO's International Bureau of Education (IBE), is described as "a major international forum for education policy dialogue among Ministers of Education and other stakeholders (researchers, practitioners, representatives of intergovernmental organizations and civil society)." It will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, November 25-28, 2008.

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This year's conference will provide opportunities for discussion about governments' role in promoting inclusive educational policies and practices. There will also be a strong focus on education systems that create opportunities for lifelong learning and successful transitions. For more information, please visit the ICE website: <http://www.ibe.unesco.org/en/ice/48th-session-2008.html>.

Support Inclusive Schools Network and Inclusive Schools 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!

2008 ISN products are now available for purchase! Use these items, including Celebration Kits, posters, pencils and much more, to promote your 2008 Inclusive Schools Week celebration and to raise awareness about inclusive educational practices throughout the year. This year, ISN is delighted to be collaborating with the Federation for Children with Special Needs, who will host the official online store for ISN products. To view the 2008 products, order online, or download a PDF order form, please visit our new **[Products Page and Secure Online Order Form](#)**:

<https://fcsn.org/inclusiveschools/orderform.html>

Click here to **[download a contribution form](#)** and make a donation today:

<http://www.inclusiveschools.org/files/Contribution%20Form.pdf>

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