

DOES YOUR SCHOOL HAVE A PLAN FOR INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK DECEMBER 3-7? THERE'S STILL TIME!



The December 3-7, 2012, Inclusive Schools Week was announced at the November 13, 2012, monthly LCPS Special Education Advisory Committee meeting. Attendees requested additional information and resources to participate in Inclusive Schools Week. We hope that this communication is helpful and responds to your interest to participate in Inclusive Schools Week. Please let us know how your school celebrated the week by posting on the SEAC Facebook page located at www.facebook.com/loudounseac (and LIKE US while you are there!).

Inclusive Schools Week is an annual event celebrated the first week in December. 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.

It can be as simple as your Principal gathering the school together and giving a motivational, positive talk about being an inclusive, welcoming community or distributing a themed Connect Ed message expressing the value of the inclusive community at school and in life.

Some schools organize ability awareness activities, create a colorful and attractive banner or poster that focuses on awareness, art and writing projects, an assembly, themed readings in your library and classrooms, watching a film, etc.

GOALS

- Celebrate the progress of schools in educating an increasingly diverse student population
- Acknowledge the hard work and commitment of schools, families, and communities in creating inclusive opportunities for all children regardless of disability, gender, ethnicity, language, health status, etc.
- Encourage reflection on how culture, policies, and practices in schools can promote inclusive education
- Promote action to increase the capacity of schools and communities to meet the needs of all learners

THEME - SOCIAL INCLUSION: MORE THAN JUST A SEAT IN THE CLASS

From the Inclusive Schools Network:

"Ask almost any parent of a child with disabilities and you will discover a concern for the number and characteristic of their son's or daughter's friends, school mates, and team mates. Observe in almost any classroom and discover that students with disabilities typically have fewer friends and interact with them in fewer settings – primarily the boundaries of the school."

WHAT NEXT?

SEAC would be delighted to hear that every school did just *one small thing* during Inclusive Schools Week to celebrate, nurture and/or communicate about inclusive community. It would be even better if you shared your plans, stories, anecdotes and photos on our Facebook page – www.facebook.com/loudounseac.

RESOURCES

Learn more about Inclusive Schools Week, and get ideas and resources, at www.inclusiveschools.org.

Book list from Easter

Seals http://www.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ntl_ability_child_booklist

Book list from Elmhurst Public Library

<http://www.elmhurstpubliclibrary.org/Kids/SpecialNeedsChildrensBooklist.php>