



A Parent's Guide

The purpose of this guide is to provide information about Arkansas's move toward more inclusive education for students with disabilities.

<p>What?</p>	<p>“Inclusive education is when all students, regardless of any challenges they may have, are placed in age-appropriate general education classes that are in their own neighborhood schools to receive high-quality instruction, interventions, and supports that enable them to meet success in the core curriculum.” Bui, Quirk, Almazan, & Valenti, 2010; Alquraini & Gut, 2012</p>	
<p>Who?</p>	<p>Working toward more inclusive education for students with disabilities should involve collaboration between families and educators.</p>	
<p>Why?</p>	<p>The importance of inclusion can not be understated. Inclusive education has demonstrated positive outcomes for students academically, socially, and behaviorally. “Inclusion early on almost guarantees inclusion later on. But, segregation early on almost guarantees segregation in the rest of life.” Sara Jo Soldovieri in the documentary <i>Forget Me Not: Inclusion in the Classroom</i></p>	
<p>When?</p>	<p>Arkansas has put a rolling implementation timeline in place. If districts are ready to implement more quickly, they certainly may do so. Also, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act mandates that students be served in their least restrictive environment. Each individual student should learn with his or her peers who do not have IEPs as much as possible. Please note that the timeline does not pertain to students who have the most significant cognitive disabilities and are participating in the Arkansas Alternate Pathway to Graduation.</p>	
<p>Where?</p>	<p>To get more information, go to the Arkansas All In Website. There is a Parent Page linked in the menu. You may also reach out to The Center for Exceptional Families at (870) 336-3012 • Toll Free (888) 360-9654 or by going to their website The Center for Exceptional Families</p>	

Want to know more about inclusive education in Arkansas? Check out this toolkit.



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