

## INCLUSION CONVERSATION STARTERS

Are you an educator who wants to move authentic inclusive education forward in your school or district? Do you have colleagues interested in developing a shared understanding of inclusion? Do you want to focus on classroom-based practices and the school-wide organizational structures that promote inclusive education? Here are **five** ways you can get a conversation started right now to identify changes YOU can make. Ask one or more colleagues to join you!

### ONE

**WATCH** short videos and use a question to guide discussion. Some of our favorites are:

- 🌸 [What is Inclusion?](#) a four-minute video that shows authentic inclusive education.
- 🌸 Shelley Moore's [5 MOORE minute series](#). Some of our favorites are [Dr. Baked Potato](#), [Design Backwards to Move Forward](#), and [Show me the Purpose](#).
- 🌸 Films and videos by [Dan Habib](#): [Including Samuel](#) and [Samuel in middle school](#) are about his son's journey to inclusion; [Thaysa](#), a young girl severely impacted by autism who is also an extraordinary piano player; [Axel](#), a story about a young boy's communication journey; and [Intelligent Lives](#), which focuses on young adults as well as the importance of inclusion.
- 🌸 [Ruby's Inclusion Story](#), a video about a girl with Down syndrome.
- 🌸 Films by SWIFT Education Center that feature the [Henderson School](#) in Boston—a charter school designed to include children with significant disabilities—as well as [Together](#) and [Whatever it Takes](#) filmed in Maryland, Mississippi, and Oregon.

### TWO

**READ** books with your colleagues. Start a book club using the following texts:

- 🌸 [Your Students, My Students, Our Students: Rethinking Equitable and Inclusive Classrooms](#) by Lee Ann Jung, Nancy Frey, Douglas Fisher, Julie Kroener.
- 🌸 The [Principal's Handbook for Leading Inclusive Schools](#) by Julie Causton & George Theoharis.
- 🌸 [When You Include Students, They Learn More, Achieve More, and Are More Engaged](#), a Think Inclusive blog with Dr. Carolyn Teigland about how Cecil County Public Schools in Maryland went from educating learners in segregated separate classrooms to being fully inclusive.
- 🌸 Check out the [7 Myths about Inclusive Education](#) Blog by [Think Inclusive!](#) Take one at a time to dive into the meaning and how it rolls out in your school or district.
- 🌸 [Leading for All: How to Create Truly INCLUSIVE and EXCELLENT Schools](#) by Jennifer Spencer-Iams and Josh Flosi.

## THREE

**LISTEN** to podcasts, such as:

- 🌸 Dr. Carol Quirk, CEO of MCIE, explaining how a district can become more inclusive through systems change: [The Think Inclusive Podcast: Carol Quirk | Systems Change and Inclusive Education](#).
- 🌸 Katie Novak with George Couros on [UDL in a Flexible Learning Landscape](#) on The Innovators Mindset Podcast.
- 🌸 Katie Novak with Catlin Tucker (The Balance) talking about creating inclusive classrooms for learner variability in [Universal Design for Learning](#).
- 🌸 Julie Causton's [The Inclusion Podcast](#), which includes [Darlene Hanson's podcast episode](#) on including learners with complex communication needs.

## FOUR

**ENGAGE** with your school staff to get their feedback and share ideas:

- 🌸 **Survey staff** about their attitudes and beliefs (use MCIE's **free** [Inclusive Education Practices Staff Survey](#) or contact us through [mcie@mcie.org](mailto:mcie@mcie.org) for an electronic version.
- 🌸 **Obtain staff input** by having them respond to sentence starters on 3 to 6 large poster papers situated around the room or on tables, such as:
  - To include ALL learners, I need to learn...
  - Our biggest barrier to including ALL learners is...
  - One thing that I can contribute to promote inclusion in our school is...
  - One way to engage our parent community in this discussion is...
- 🌸 **Brainstorm priorities** for actions to take in the next 6 months in response to the survey, staff input session, or other staff feedback.

## FIVE

**LEARN** from other implementers.

- 🌸 Check out the Edutopia videos, such [Why Inclusion Matters on the Playground](#), [3 Keys to More Effective Collaboration in an Inclusive Classroom](#), and [Students With Limited Verbal Capabilities Can Thrive in Inclusive Classrooms](#).
- 🌸 Sign up for [edWeb](#) webinars, learning from national experts on various topics such as [Creating Inclusive Science Classrooms that Give Voice to All Students](#), [Using Spring SEL Data to Guide Instruction and Intervention Next Year](#), and [Building Equity: Practices That Empower ALL Learners](#).

**Follow MCIE for more resources!**

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)