

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](#), [Under the Table](#), [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, and Julie Kroener.
- [The Way to Inclusion: How Leaders Create Schools Where Every Student Belongs](#) by Julie Causton, Kate MacLeod, Kristie Pretti-Frontczak, Janna Mancini-Rufo, and Paul Gordon.
- [Specially Designed Instruction: Increasing Success for Students with Disabilities](#) by Anne Beninghof
- [When You Include Students, They Learn More, Achieve More, and Are More Engaged](#), a Think Inclusive blog post 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 our [7 Myths about Inclusive Education](#) blog post! Take one at a time to dive into the meaning and how it rolls out in your school or district.
- Download [22 Ways to Respond to Statements like "Inclusion is not fair to the other students."](#) from Inclusive Schooling (name and email required)
- [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. Carolyn Teigland and Dr. Carol Quirk discuss how MCIE partners with school districts and how districts can transform their schools to be inclusive: [MCIE Partners with School Districts to Promote Inclusion and Equity](#).
- [Inclusion Stories](#) is a five-episode audio documentary series produced by MCIE that tells the stories of families and school districts that have committed to pursuing authentic inclusive education.
- [The 5 Ps of Inclusive Education](#), Dr. Shelley Moore discusses the importance of inclusive practices in secondary schools.
- Dr. Carolyn Teigland and Tim Villegas discuss changes in the priorities of the federal administration, what it means for disability rights, for inclusive educational opportunities, and what we can do moving forward. [Inclusion... Now What? With MCIE's Carolyn Teigland & Tim Villegas](#) on the Beyond Awareness: Disability that Matters Podcast.
- Katie Novak with George Couros on [UDL in a Flexible Learning Landscape](#) on The Innovators Mindset Podcast.
- Julie Causton's [The Inclusion Podcast](#), which includes Part 1 & 2 of [Darlene Hanson's guest appearance](#) 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 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](#) [Bluesky](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#)

[MCIE Newsletters](#)