

INCLUSION:
**ISC Presentation by the Department of
Student Services & Special Education**



February 9, 2021

LOWER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT

INTRODUCTIONS



Kimberly Fraser

Director of Student Services & Special Education

Melissa Sinapi-Gibson

Lead Supervisor of Special Education

Supervisor of Special Education Grades 10-12+

Stefani Doyle

Supervisor of Special Education Early Intervention & Grades K-3

Beth Cavalier

Supervisor of Special Education Grades 4-6

Gwen Nartowicz,

Supervisor of Special Education Grades 7-9

INCLUSIVITY AND BELONGING



OUR DISTRICT WELCOMES

students of all races, ethnicities and nationalities
students with diverse abilities
students who are LGBTQ
students of all family structures
students who are English language learners
students of all religions
students from all socio-economic backgrounds
students of all body types

...YOU



Van Gogh



LMSD SPECIAL EDUCATION TEAM



- ❖ Special Education Teachers
- ❖ Instructional Assistants (classroom support/1:1 aides/Behavior Aides/Job Coaches)
- ❖ Related Service Providers
 - Speech Language Therapists
 - Occupational Therapists
 - Physical Therapists
 - Orientation & Mobility Therapists
 - Vision & Hearing Therapists
- ❖ Behavior Specialists
- ❖ Gifted Education Teachers
- ❖ Special Education Coordinators

INCLUSION: COMMUNITY COMMITMENT



INCLUSION: DEFINED



- ❖ All students are a part of the school environment and each student holds value to the community
- ❖ A philosophy of acceptance and belonging to the community so that the system is structured to meet the needs of all its students
- ❖ The process through which education systems respond to diverse learners in ways that enable participation, equal opportunities, respect for difference, and social justice





INCLUSION: HISTORICAL CONTEXT



Historical View of Disability

- ❖ While disability has not changed, our views of the meaning of disability has changed over time – for the better.
- ❖ More recently, disability has been viewed as a result of environmental and societal factors that serve as barriers to the ability of person with disabilities to participate fully in their communities or families or to obtain the care and services they need.

Significant Disability Rights Laws

- 1973** - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- 1975** - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- 1990** - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- 2004** - Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004)



INCLUSION: GUIDING PRINCIPLES



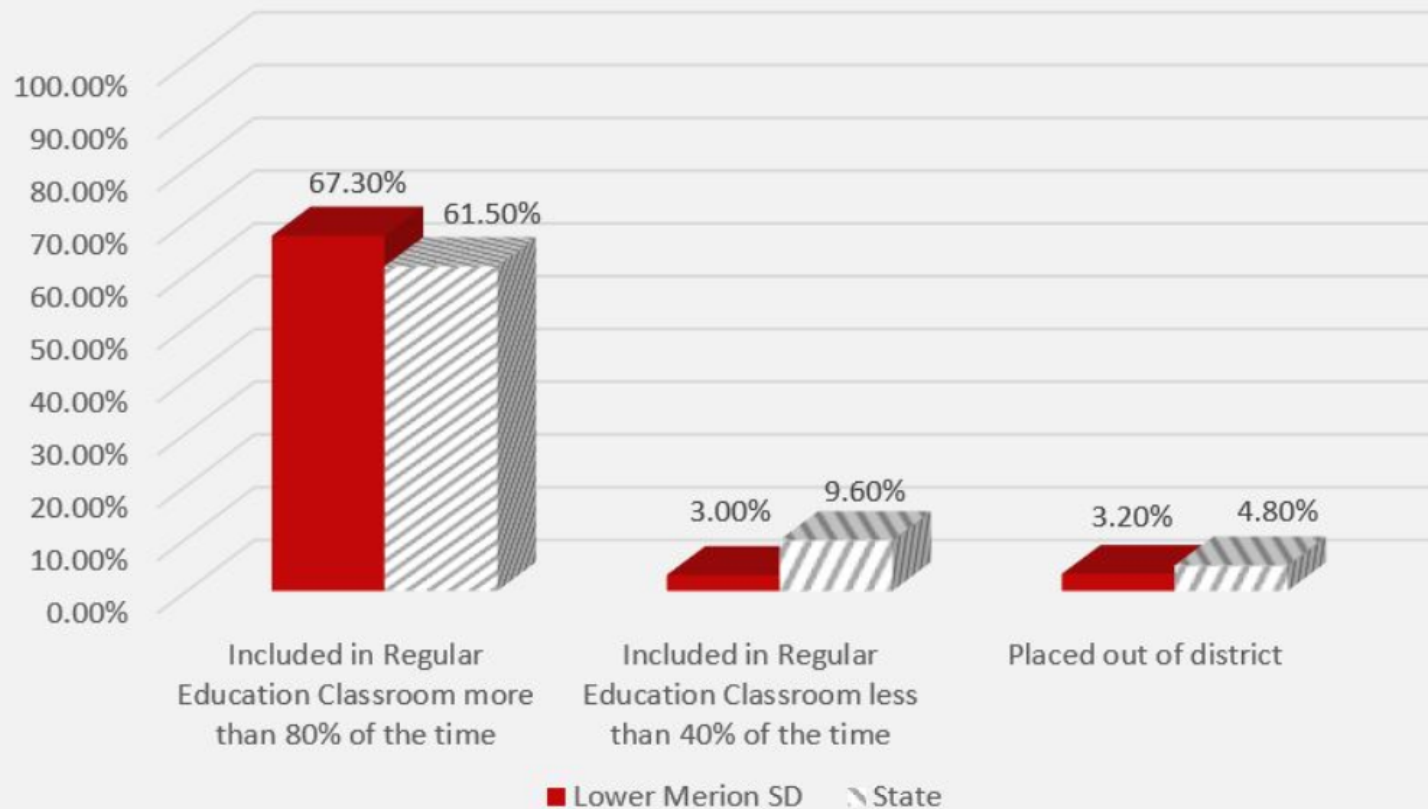
- ❖ Least restrictive environment and right to access
- ❖ Data-driven accountability in progress reporting
- ❖ Responsibility to meaningful progress
- ❖ Student-centered planning and continuum of services
- ❖ Collaborative decision-making
- ❖ Evidence-based practices to eliminate or minimize barriers

INCLUSION: DISTRICT DATA

2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR



Inclusion Data



INCLUSION IN-ACTION: SUPPLEMENTARY AIDS AND SERVICES



Definition

Supports that are provided in a general education setting that enable children with disabilities to be educated with their peers to the maximum extent appropriate

Supports designed to provide meaningful educational benefit and avoid stigmatization during school and extracurricular activities

Identified by an IEP team

Categories

- ❖ Collaboration
- ❖ Instruction
- ❖ Physical
- ❖ Social-Behavioral



INCLUSION IN-ACTION: COLLABORATION



Definition

Adults working together to support students



Examples

- ❖ IEP team meetings
- ❖ Professional development
- ❖ Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- ❖ Consultation with related service providers
- ❖ Paraprofessional support
- ❖ Consultation with coach, club sponsor, or transportation staff

INCLUSION IN-ACTION: INSTRUCTION



Definition

Development and delivery of instruction that addresses diverse learning needs



Examples

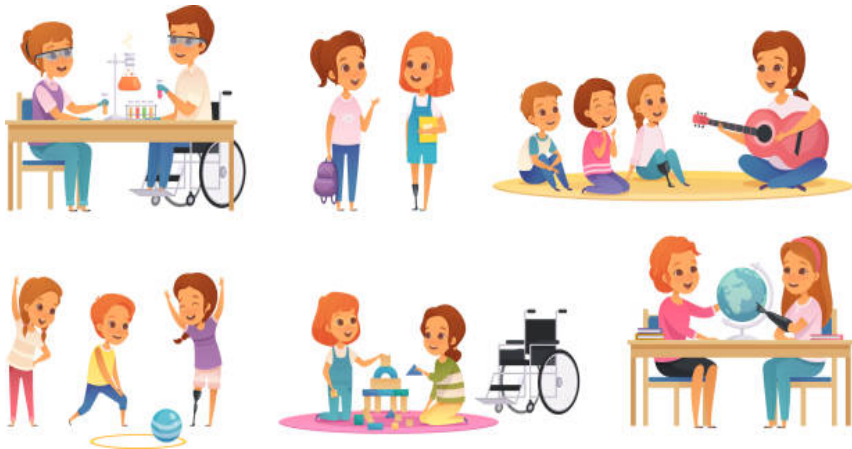
- ❖ Use of assistive technology
- ❖ Comprehension checks
- ❖ Accommodations
 - Presentation
 - Response
 - Time
- ❖ Modifications
 - Instruction
 - Test

INCLUSION IN-ACTION: PHYSICAL



Definition

Adaptations and modifications to the physical environment



Examples

- ❖ Use of adaptive equipment
- ❖ Adjustments to sensory input
- ❖ Specific seating arrangement
- ❖ Preferential seating

INCLUSION IN-ACTION: SOCIAL-BEHAVIORAL



Definition

Supports and services to increase positive behavior and reduce interfering behavior

Process of identifying the function of the behavior

5 Key Areas:

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Responsible Decision Making
- Relationship Skills
- Social Awareness

Examples

- ❖ Individualized Positive Behavior Support Plans
- ❖ Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) consultation



INCLUSION: GOING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



***DEVELOP SOCIAL INTERACTIONS**

LUNCH TIME ACTIVITIES

***PROMOTE SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT**

RECESS GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

***ENHANCE CONFIDENCE**

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

***ENSURE PEER TRAINING**

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

***ENCOURAGE PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

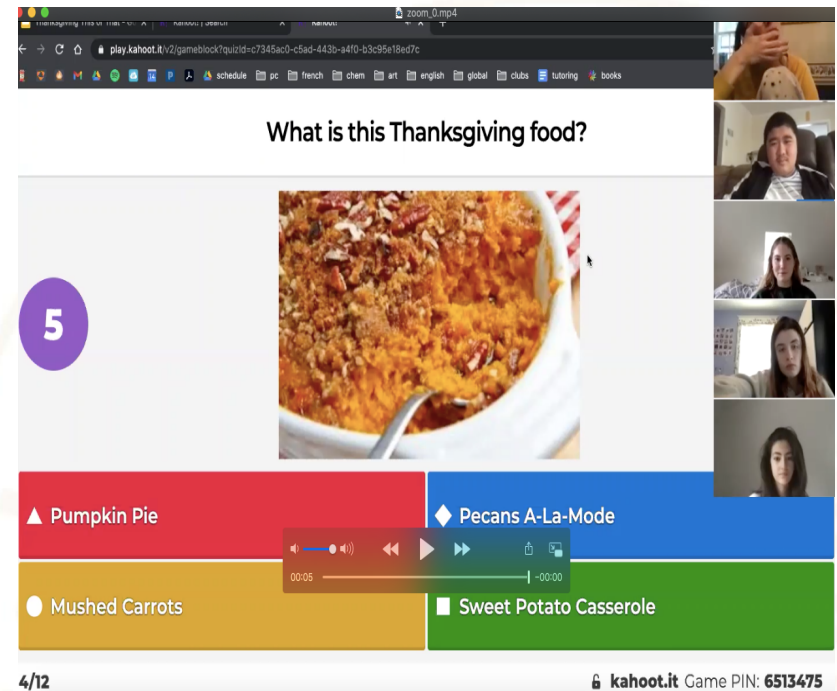
BEST BUDDIES

***SUPPORT COMMUNITY ACCESS**

WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES



INCLUSION: GOING STRONG DESPITE THE PANDEMIC



INCLUSION: LASTING IMPACT BEYOND GRADUATION





Important Announcements

Student Services Session for Parent/Guardians February 18th from 7-8pm

District Social Workers will share information on helpful stress reduction techniques and various community supports and resources available for students & families.

Lower Merion Township Scholarship Fund: Williams-Clarke Award

This scholarship may be awarded to graduates who plan to pursue a career in special education, general education or have meaningfully participated in organizations such as Best Buddies or Special Olympics

\$2,500 matching challenge from the Gladstone family where every contribution will be matched dollar for dollar