



## Contact Us

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Please contact us if you are interested in becoming a Lay Advocate or would like to have a Lay Advocate work with you.

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## The Inclusive Education Lay Advocacy Project:

- ▶ Adheres to the belief that interested people, when given the opportunity, will prove to be strong advocates for all children.
- ▶ Provides training, based on a proven model, to Nebraskans who commit to attending meetings and standing with other families in advocating for inclusive education for their children.
- ▶ Offers Individual Education Plan clinics to help families understand their rights and responsibilities for developing inclusive education plans.

“  
**INCLUSION IS NOT TOLERANCE;  
IT IS UNCONDITIONAL  
ACCEPTANCE.**”

— Joe W. —



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## INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

# LAY ADVOCACY PROJECT



**Disability Rights Nebraska**  
Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities

# Who We Are

The Inclusive Education Lay Advocacy Project seeks to engage interested people in lay advocacy for students with disabilities and their families. Lay advocates will be provided with education and training to support families in the mastery of educational information, the understanding and implementation of legal rights, and the effective navigation of educational systems to secure inclusive educational opportunities for students with disabilities.

“ THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IS THE VALUING OF DIVERSITY WITHIN THE HUMAN COMMUNITY...WE BEGIN TO LOOK BEYOND TYPICAL WAYS OF BECOMING VALUED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, AND IN DOING SO, BEGIN TO REALIZE THE ACHIEVABLE GOAL OF PROVIDING ALL CHILDREN WITH AN AUTHENTIC SENSE OF BELONGING. ”

– Norman Kunc

# Benefits of Inclusion



- ▶ School cultures are collaborative and respectful
- ▶ All students attend their neighborhood schools
- ▶ High quality instruction interventions, and supports are developed
- ▶ All students experience higher expectations and improved test scores
- ▶ All students develop relationships with their peers
- ▶ Inclusive school communities promote the value of diversity
- ▶ All students are prepared for a natural transition into a meaningful adult life

# Effects of Isolation and Segregation

- ▶ Educational programs that do not promote success for all students
- ▶ Schooling that does not embody the spirit of diversity and community
- ▶ Few opportunities for students to experience peer relationships in preparation for adult life
- ▶ And many more...

“ WE CONCLUDE THAT IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION THE DOCTRINE OF ‘SEPARATE BUT EQUAL’ HAS NO PLACE. ”

– Brown v. Board of Education (1954)

