

Identify barriers to inclusion

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Understand inclusive education' from the

Guide: The role of school boards

Includes: Investigate student experiences of discrimination

Ask parents about barriers

Consider created by design decisions

Develop an inclusive philosophy

Useful resources

From

Guide: The role of school boards

Strategy: Understand inclusive education Suggestion: Identify barriers to inclusion

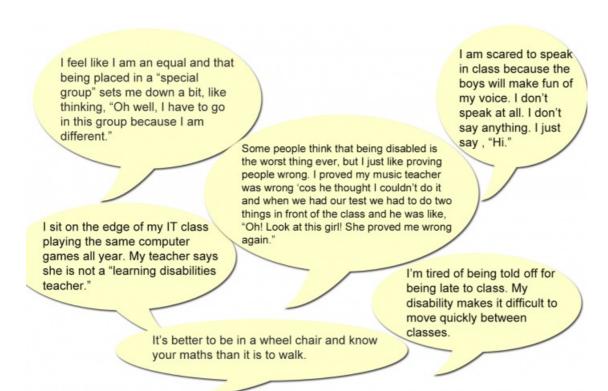
Date

18 September 2025

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/the-role-of-school-boards/identify-barriers-to-inclusion

Investigate student experiences of discrimination



Source:

Adapted from Leadership in the development of inclusive school communities http://www.educationalleaders.govt.nz/Pedagogy-and-assessment/Building-effective-learning-environments/Leadership-and-inclusive-school-communities

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Ask parents about barriers

Your child can only come to school for certain hours of the day/ Please come and pick your child up – the teacher aide is not available/ We will take them for a trial period only/ Special needs kids are not welcome here.

Teachers don't understand the needs of my child and don't want to learn about them/ The teacher doesn't understand how to use teacher's aides/ The teacher believes my child is the problem, not the way their school or classroom works/ Teachers have low expectations of my child.

The teachers believe they're not responsible for my child in the same way that they're responsible for the non-disabled children/ Teachers didn't want my child and can choose not to take them – but they can't choose not to take a non-disabled child/ The teacher hands responsibility for my child over to the teacher's aide.

My daughter is bullied by the other kids/ My son is humiliated by the teacher in front of other students.

My child is not valued/ They recognise other student's achievement but not my child's/ Staff don't care about my child.

We're not listened to/ Our knowledge and experience is not considered important/ I was accused of being a bad parent/ We're not included in "normal parent" events/ We're only told about problems, not good things about our kids/ They have low expectations fo my child.

Source:

Adapted from Inclusive education: Perspectives on professional practice https://www.dunmore.co.nz/p/education-inclusive-education-perspectives-on-professional-practice?barcode=97819272120

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Consider created by design decisions



CLEARING A PATH
FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
CLEARS THE PATH FOR EVERYONE!

Source:

Michael Giangreco

https://www.uvm.edu/cess/cdci/profiles/michael-f-giangreco-phd

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Develop an inclusive philosophy

John Robinson, HoD Learning Support, explains the philosophy that underpins inclusive practice at Onslow College.



Video hosted on Vimeo http://vimeo.com/100662411

Closed Captions

Source:

Ministry of Education, Inclusive education videos (NZ) https://vimeo.com/album/2950799

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Useful resources



Leadership in the development of inclusive school communities

An overview of the research of Dr Jude McArthur and others into the experiences of young people with additional learning needs in schools. Key themes are connected to what school leaders can do to develop their schools as inclusive communities.

Publisher: New Zealand Educational Administration & Leadership Society

Visit website



Creating culturally safe schools for Māori students

Read time: 52 min

This article presents findings about ways to create culturally safe classrooms. It focuses on ways teachers and schools can create inclusive environments for Māori students.

Publisher: Australian Journal of Indigenous Education

Download PDF (1.7 MB)



Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in action

Karori Normal School used the framework that underpins Universal Design for Learning (UDL) as a useful starting point to support their ability to meet the diverse needs of students.

Publisher: Ministry of Education NZ

Visit website

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