# Goals for Inclusive Education

**Least Restrictive Education (LRE)**
- Students will have a sense of belonging
- Students will develop natural supports
- Students will display more appropriate behavior
- Students will develop true friendships
- Create strong educational teams

## Benefits of Inclusive Education

Research has clearly defined the benefits of inclusion and peer supports for the student with a disability. However, these benefits are not reserved for the students receiving the assistance; the following is a list published by: [www.kidstogether.org/inclusion/benefitsofinclusion.htm](http://www.kidstogether.org/inclusion/benefitsofinclusion.htm), which boasts the benefits for all student groups when inclusion and peer supports have been planned and implemented individually and appropriately.

### Benefits for Students with Disabilities:
- Friendships
- Increased social initiations, relationships and networks
- Peer role models for academic, social and behavior skills
- Increased achievement of IEP goals
- Greater access to general curriculum
- Enhanced skill acquisition and generalization
- Increased inclusion in future environments
- Greater opportunities for interactions
- Higher expectations
- Increased school staff collaboration
- Increased parent participation
- Families are more integrated into community

### Benefits of Inclusion for Students without Disabilities:
- Meaningful friendships
- Increased appreciation and acceptance of individual differences
- Increased understanding and acceptance of diversity
- Respect for all people
- Prepares all students for adult life in an inclusive society
- Opportunities to master activities by practicing and teaching others
- Greater academic outcomes
- All students' needs are better met, greater resources for everyone
The power of peers as shown here has a cumulative effect, which makes issues such as bullying incompatible. Rather, we have peers helping peers become more integrated into the school culture. In recent news there have been a number of inclusive schools where together the classmates and adults have created a school system where everyone can be celebrated. A few examples include students electing their peers with disabilities to class officer roles and homecoming king or queen (USA Today, Nation, 4A Thursday September 30, 2010). What a celebration this is - for everyone! Great things happen in inclusive schools!

www.inclusiveschools.org