

# **Principles of the Early Childhood Least Restrictive Environment Stakeholder Consortium Mission Statement**

## **Mission Statement**

**The EC LRE Stakeholder Consortium promotes inclusion of children with special needs with typically developing peers in all environments where they learn, grow and have appropriate supports to succeed.**

Adopted January 23, 2015

### **The Framework of the Mission Statement is:**

- Recognition of the benefits and the value of children (with and without disabilities) in shared settings where inclusive practices and appropriate supports are utilized
- Adherence to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Every Student Succeeds Act, Illinois School Code, Head Start Act, Child Care and Development Block Grant Act, American with Disabilities Act and other relevant laws and regulations
- Endorsement of the right of young children eligible for special services to belong in and to receive individualized supports within the natural and least restrictive environment.

### **The Mission Statement is advanced through**

- Intentional and strategic public awareness and education of the community, early care and education providers, families of all young children, and other stakeholders
- Statewide and collaborative structures that include families, and all local and state entities that impact the lives of young children
- The promotion of evidence-based practices that enable all young children and their families to inclusively maximize the critical early childhood developmental and learning years.