

Policy Statement on Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs

This document provides an overview of the policy statement, released jointly by the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services. This policy statement builds upon the earlier 2015 policy statement with renewed commitment and urgency as children with disabilities continue to face significant barriers accessing and participating in inclusive early childhood programs.



Why are the departments releasing a new policy statement?

Children with disabilities continue to face significant barriers to accessing and participating in inclusive early childhood programs. Too many children with disabilities receive special education services in settings separate from their peers without disabilities



How does this advance the departments' position on inclusion?

- Reiterates the expectation for inclusion in high-quality early childhood programs
- Sets expectation that inclusion continues as children transition into elementary school
- Highlights the latest science that supports inclusion and reinforces the legal foundation for inclusion
- Reiterates and updates recommendations to States and local programs and providers for increasing inclusive early learning opportunities
- Updates resources and examples of inclusion



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