

1.2 What is Inclusion? What is Exclusion?

What is Inclusion?

According to the BC Inclusive Education Manual of Policies and Procedures, inclusion describes *“the principle that all students are entitled to equitable access to learning, achievement and the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of their education.”*

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in *Article 24: The Right To Inclusive Education* defines inclusion as follows:

Inclusive education is where students of all abilities learn together in the same classroom environment. This means students with and without disabilities. It involves creating an education system where everyone can learn together and have their individual needs met. Inclusive education is about making system-wide changes so that all students can receive this standard of education. This means the education system must adapt to the needs of individuals, not the other way round.

What is Exclusion?

According to BCs Provincial Policy Inclusive Education, students can only be placed in an education setting other than their classroom with their peers *“when the Board of Education has made all reasonable efforts to integrate the student, and it is clear that a combination of education in such classes and supplementary support cannot meet their educational or social needs, or when there is clear evidence that partial or full placement in another setting is the only option after considering their educational needs or the educational needs of others.”*

According to Inclusion BC, “exclusion occurs when students are directly or indirectly prevented from or denied access to education in any form. Segregation occurs when the education of students with disabilities is provided in separate environments designed or used

to respond to a particular or various impairments, in isolation from students without disabilities.”

According to the BC Ombudsperson:

Exclusion from school can happen in many ways. Students may be:

- *asked to stay home/go home*
- *asked to leave early/arrive late/have shortened school days*
- *asked not to attend field trips or other school activities*
- *unable to attend because of health/personal care support needs the school is unable to provide*
- *unable to attend because of learning support needs the school is unable to provide*
- *not learning with the rest of their class*
- *isolated by themselves in the school, secluded and/or restrained*