

## Inclusion

**Inclusion in education is about valuing all children and the environment that best suits their learning equally. This might be best attained within a mainstream school, or a special school. The aim is to increase the participation and reduce the exclusion from the local school communities and the culture that accompanies them.**

To be fully inclusive, schools might need to restructure their teaching and learning practices to accommodate individual learners.

Barriers to learning should be reduced and this can benefit the whole school community.

Where differences between students exist, they should be viewed as learning opportunities for the whole school and teachers should be fully trained and resourced adequately in order to implement any differentiation required within the classroom.

There are many definitions of inclusion. Lynch and Irvine (2009) describe 'authentic inclusion' as:

*"a unified system of public education that incorporates all children and youths as active, fully participating members of the school community; that views diversity as the norm; and that ensures a high-quality education for each student by providing meaningful curriculum, effective teaching, and necessary supports for each student."*