



# Maine Developmental Disabilities Council

## Position Statement on Education

The Maine Developmental Disabilities Council believes early intervention and education services for all students should be inclusive, accessible, comprehensive, high quality, and student/family centered. *We believe that all members of our communities benefit when students receive education and early intervention services that are:*

### ***Inclusive***

- Students with disabilities learn, play, and work with all of their classmates in the same schools, classrooms and other educational sites with their peers, siblings and neighbors who do not have disabilities.
- Education and related services are sensitive to the family's situational, language, socioeconomic, and cultural differences.

### ***Accessible***

- Schools, classrooms and programs are safe and welcoming to students and families.
- Schools, classrooms and programs are physically and programmatically accessible to all students.
- Educational services are engaging, purposeful, individualized and student centered.
- Appropriate coordination of services and supports extends from early intervention through public education and from high school to adulthood.

### ***Comprehensive***

- Education prepares youth with disabilities for employment, independent living, and full participation in civic and community life.
- Education encompasses the whole person, including arts, sports, recreation, and socialization.
- Students receive appropriate individualized instruction, research-based interventions and supports, and access to the general curriculum and related services.

### ***High Quality***

- Students with disabilities exit high school into employment, enrollment in postsecondary education, or both.
- Educational outcomes are proficiency based and data driven with real time progress reporting to parents and professionals.
- Students receive timely support and accommodations based upon individual needs.
- Students learn from informed, qualified, trained staff.
- Educational services are innovative and make appropriate use of technology.
- Students are treated with dignity and with respect at all times, and especially when addressing their behavioral and disciplinary needs.

### ***Student & Family Centered***

- Students and families are supported to understand the educational process.
- Families have meaningful and convenient opportunities to participate as equal partners in the education of their children.
- Educational concerns are responded to in a timely manner.
- Students have access to effective, family-friendly advocacy.