



1.2 Inclusion versus 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.”*

A collaborative report from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the Alana Institute defines inclusion as follows

Inclusion involves a process of systemic reform embodying changes and modifications in content, teaching methods, approaches, structures and strategies in education to overcome barriers with a vision serving to provide all students of the relevant age range with an equitable and participatory learning experience and environment that best corresponds to their requirements and preferences. Placing students with disabilities within mainstream classes without accompanying structural changes to, for example, organization, curriculum and teaching and learning strategies, does not constitute inclusion.

What is Exclusion?

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*