Least Restrictive Environment & Inclusion

Texas Project FIRST (Region 9 ESC) resources:
- Placement Decisions
- Planning Matrix
- Instructional Arrangements
- Why Inclusion Begins in Kindergarten (pdf)

Texas Education Agency resources related to Least Restrictive Environment and Access to the General Curriculum:
- Progress in the General Curriculum - Region 20 ESC develops a framework for statewide collaboration through a comprehensive planning process. Priorities in professional development and technical assistance focus on ensuring that all students with disabilities will gain access to and show progress in the general curriculum through curricular/instructional adaptations in the least restrictive environment. Resources include: Least Restrictive Environment Questions & Answers, Standards Based IEP Development Question & Answers, A Guide to Co-Teaching, and Preschool Least Restrictive Environment, as well as a free online training module on Standards Based IEPs.
- Texas Assistive Technology (AT) Network (Region 4 ESC) - Assistive technology enables students with disabilities to access the curriculum, increase independence and participate actively in education and life activities. The website has online training modules regarding AT assessment & implementation, as well as a wealth of AT resources and AT Links.
- The Legal Framework for the Child Centered Special Education Process (Region 18 ESC) – Least Restrictive Environment

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Center for Inclusive Child Care - This website is a centralized, comprehensive resource network supporting inclusive care for children in community settings. They have a variety on online training modules and tool kits.

Center for Parent Information and Resources – This link takes you to CPIR’s section on “Placement Issues.” Also available in Spanish.

Center on Human Policy - Home page of the Center on Human Policy – a Syracuse University based organization that studies and promotes inclusion for people with disabilities. Information about the organization and its publications are provided as well as an extensive list of web links to other disability resources.

Disability is Natural – Various articles on new ways of thinking around education, inclusion and therapy.
Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center – Proposed Benefits of Inclusion and Research & Studies on Inclusion

I am Norm - Through this campaign, I am Norm hopes to raise awareness about inclusion, provide opportunities for youth to share their ideas about inclusion, and promote inclusive practices in schools and communities. I am Norm wants to encourage the acceptance, respect, and full inclusion of all youth, including those with disabilities, in schools and communities. They have a variety of resources to Host your own I am Norm Day, Take Action, and Teaching Tools.

Inclusion Institutes - The Inclusion Institutes are a consortium of research and service projects related to inclusive education affiliated with the School of Education of Syracuse University. These projects include the Institute on Communication and Inclusion, Schools of Promise and Taishoff Center for Inclusive Higher Education.

Inclusion Press - The home page of “Inclusion Press”, self-described as “a small independent press striving to produce readable, accessible, user-friendly books and resources about full inclusion in school, work and community.” The site includes books, videos, web links, newsletter highlights, and workshops.

Inclusion Research Institute - The website of the Inclusion Research Institute whose purpose is “to develop, research, and disseminate educational, therapeutic, and technological innovations...”

Inclusive Schools Network – This website offers a forum for educators, students, family, and community members to share experiences and ideas with each other. Included is a self-assessment tool for schools to guide a review of current practices regarding inclusive education, additional resources and success stories.

Kids Together, Inc. - The web site of Kids Together, Inc. whose mission is to “promote inclusive communities where all people belong”. It includes information and web links on inclusive education, supported employment, obtaining assistive technology, legislation, people first language, and more. It also contains some light-hearted cartoons and “top ten lists” that many parents can relate to.

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and Division of Early Childhood (DEC) – Joint Position Statement on Early Childhood Inclusion

National Arts and Disability Center - A project of the University of California Los Angeles, the NADC promotes the full inclusion of audiences and artists with disabilities into all facets of the arts community.

National Center for Universal Design - Universal Design for Learning is a set of principles for curriculum development that give all individuals equal opportunities to learn. UDL provides a blueprint for creating instructional goals, methods, materials,
assessment that work for everyone – not a single, one size fits all solution, but rather flexible approaches that can be customized and adjusted for individual needs. This web site Defines UDL and its Three Principles, offers guidelines, explains the components of UDL curricula, research, as well as an extensive resource library in a variety of media.

**National Inclusion Project** - Through innovative programs and strategic partnerships, NIP are leading the way for inclusive communities nationwide. "Let’s ALL Play" provides a program model for recreational programs seeking to improve the way they implement inclusion. "Together We Make a Difference" is an effective service learning curriculum tool that teachers and program providers can use to help all children make an impact. They also offer other grants for those seeking to make a difference in their communities with inclusive programs and families seeking to benefit from inclusive programs.

**Paula Kluth** – This website is dedicated to promoting inclusive schooling and exploring positive ways of supporting students with autism and other disabilities. There are a number of articles on inclusive schooling and differentiating instruction.

**PBS Parents: Inclusive Education** - This series of articles discusses the benefits of inclusive education, common misconceptions, and how to make inclusion a reality.

**Project Participate** - This is the website of Project Participate providing “practical solutions to enhance learning, teaching, and the full inclusion of students with disabilities in the classroom. Project Participate facilitates team collaboration and the appropriate use of technology in the classroom.”

**TASH** - The website of TASH, an international non-profit organization working for “equity, diversity, social justice and inclusion” for people with disabilities. The site provides information on TASH including their mission statement, resolutions, and policy statements; conference information; publications; web links and more.

**Texas Center for Disability Study** - The Texas Center for Disability Study is one of 66 University Centers on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Research, Education and Services (UCEDD). Their mission is “to serve as a catalyst so that people with disabilities are living the lives they choose in supportive communities.” Information also provided in Spanish.

**Texas A&M Center on Disability and Development** – The TAMU Center on Disability & Development is one of 66 University Centers on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Research, Education, and Services (UCEDD). They support self-determination, community integration, and quality of life of people with disabilities and their families.

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities** – TCDD works to create change so that all people with disabilities are fully included in their communities and exercise
control over their own lives. This site includes information on grants, their FYI newsletters, links to resources, and more.

**The Inclusive Class** - Strategies and solutions for teaching students of all abilities.

**United Cerebral Palsy** – This link takes you to UCP’s “Case for Inclusion” report, which ranks all 50 states and the District of Columbia (DC) on outcomes for Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD).

**VSA Texas** - VSA Texas is an expert resource on inclusive arts. They create and maintain an accessible and open community where everyone can participate. Their goal is to provide support and training to the public, enhance personal growth, and offer Texans access to the creative work of people with diverse abilities.

**Whole Schooling Consortium** - This is the home page of the Whole Schooling Consortium. “In Whole Schools, children with substantial differences learn well together – students with mild to severe disabilities, gifted, from many cultures and ethnic groups.”

Please submit any Links you feel would be appropriate using the **SHARE YOUR SITES** link.