What is an Inclusive School?

**Inclusive:** Taking a great deal or everything within its scope; comprehensive.

**School:** the body of students, or students and teachers, belonging to an educational institution:

Inclusive schools are ever present and shaping the future of education. Legislation, research and social justice movements support the development and sustainability of inclusive schools throughout the world.

Inclusive schools are built on the strong philosophical belief that all children can learn and be successful within a shared academic environment. Culturally responsive educational strategies, differentiated instruction and positive behavioral supports are some of the inclusive practices that are evident in academic and non-academic settings within the school. Inclusive schools offer all students opportunities and support that will allow them to become self-determined, productive, and socially involved citizens.

Inclusive schools are on a perpetual journey toward becoming and maintaining a society where children and youth are not marginalized due to disability, gender, socio-economic status, cultural heritage, language preference or religion. Each child who enters an inclusive school presents new challenges and opportunities for the whole school community.

**Inclusive Schools are places where:**

- **Children and young adults** of all abilities, cultures, socio-economic backgrounds, languages, genders and religions share a learning environment that builds upon their strengths and supports their diverse needs.
- **Faculty and Administration** work collaboratively amongst themselves and with families to ensure that all students are learning and thriving.
- **Families** feel valued and are empowered to participate in their child’s education.
- **Communities** surrounding the school embrace the principles of inclusion among their citizens.