

Special Education



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OUR GOAL

OUR ASK









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ENGAGED





MEET YOUR COACHES



Session 1

A Case for Special Education in Christian Schools

Organizational Identity Review & Reflection

Leadership Principle: Get on the Balcony

TRUE or FALSE



According to the latest census data, 20-25% of the population has some form of disability.



TRUE



Data suggests that up to 50% of Christ-centered schools will not enroll children with special education needs.



FALSE

It is 70%



Having a child with disabilities in the classroom will have a negative impact on the academic progress of other students



FALSE

There is no research to support this

The number of students ages 3–21 receiving special education services in the United States increased from 6.4 million in school year 2010–11 to 7.3 million in school year 2021–22.



TRUE



The majority of students who receive special education services are enrolled in special schools.



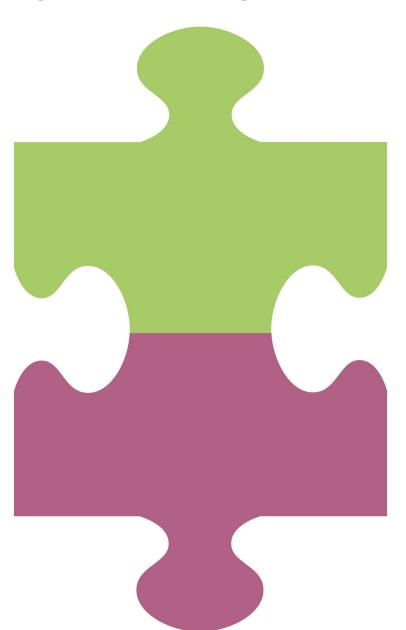
FALSE

95% are enrolled in regular schools



Specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability

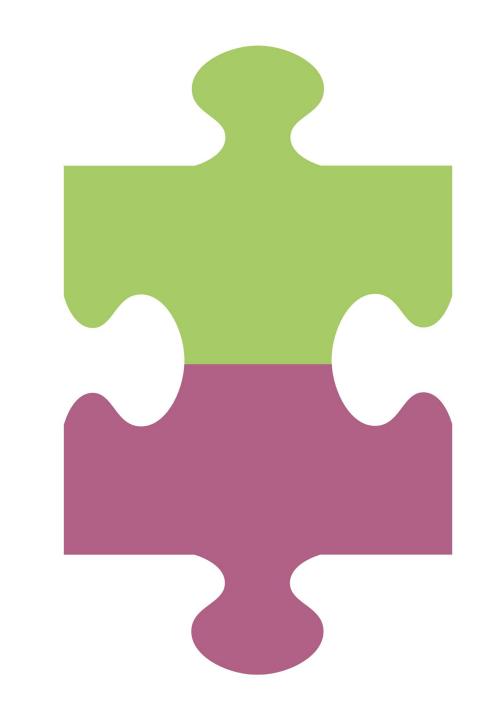
EVERYONE HAS ABILITIES







- » What did you notice?
- » What stuck with you most?
- » What did you learn or what were you reminded of?





Specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability

DECISION MAKING

Mission \rightarrow Vision \rightarrow Values

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How does special education align with your current mission, vision, and values?

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How does special education align with your current mission, vision, and values?

How could your school grow its current impact?



Nine Pillars of Scriptural Wisdom from Genesis to Revelation

Thomas L. Boehm



God's Image Bearers: A *Glorious* Reflection

Application: Inclusive Christian schools are open to serving students with disabilities because they are **fellow image bearers of God**.



God's Image Bearers: A *Distorted* Reflection

Application: Inclusive Christian schools guard against reflecting the brokenness of the world by *INcluding* students with disabilities and *EXcluding* unbiblical values.



God's Promise to Remedy the Effects of the Fall

Application: Inclusive Christian schools should incubate and **promote biblical faith** that helps students know and trust God's wisdom and His ways.



Remedy Through the Messiah's Arrival

Application: Inclusive Christian schools exercise their faith by using existing resources and looking for ways God is leading to grow and build the school as a **unique expression of Himself.**



God's Goodness and Sovereignty in the Face of Disability

Application: Inclusive Christian schools **pursue beauty** (in all people and creation) amidst the brokenness that is common in this current age (i.e., before Jesus' return and the age to come).



God's Economy

Application: Inclusive Christian schools embrace and model God's economy by **making room for human weakness** so God's power can be more visible.



God's Law of Love

Application: Inclusive Christian schools prioritize **loving God and others well** so God's love can be more tangible and visible.



God's People Respond

Application: As an extension and expression of the body of Christ, inclusive Christian schools cultivate interdependent community among students (and staff) of all abilities to learn and grow together in knowing and following Jesus.



God's Ultimate Restoration of All things in the Age to Come

Application: Inclusive Christian schools distinguish between primary outcomes, such as **maturing disciples**, and secondary outcomes, such as smarter students.



Benefits of Special Education for a Christian School



Benefits of SPED for a Christian School

- Tangible way to live out the school's mission
- Enrolling whole families leads to enrollment growth
- The Body of Christ is further represented
- Donors support special education
- Students benefit from experiencing others with all levels of ability
- Students develop empathy, patience, understanding, and an awareness of others



The student body represents various talents and gifts





Inclusive education benefits all students





Adults form strong partnerships and collaborative relationships.





Students experience reduced fear of human differences, growth in social skills, improvements in self-concept, development of moral and ethical principles, and form caring friendships.



Christian Schools are Uniquely Equipped to Meet Student Needs

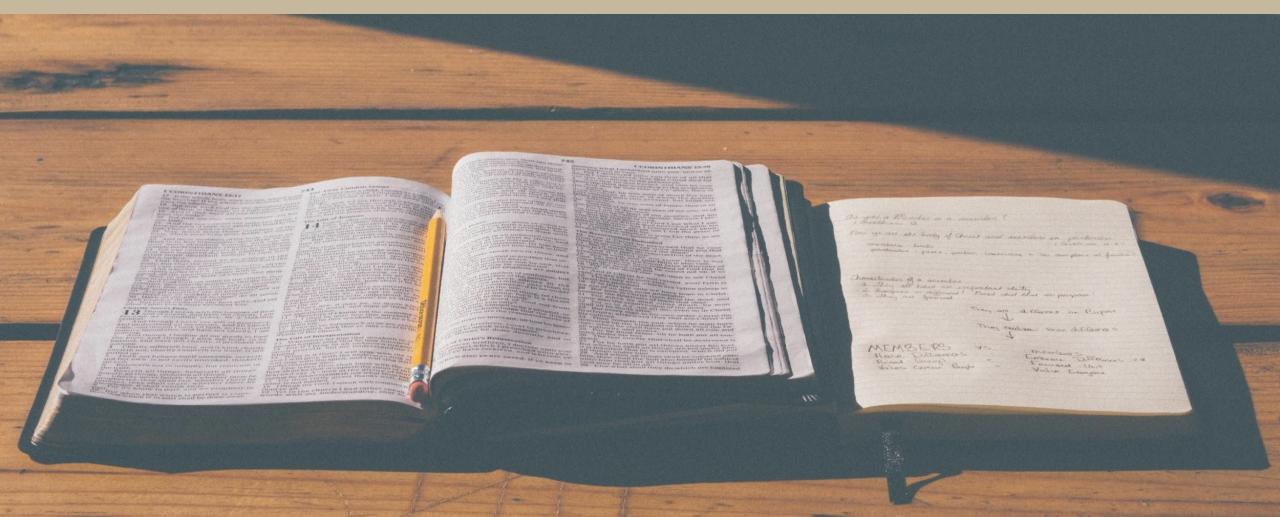
We have the secret sauce



Christian Schools are Uniquely Equipped

- We can be nimble and make adjustments quickly
- We can help students before they fail
- We share a whole-student perspective based on faith
- We see the value of each student
- We can provide services efficiently and quickly
- We can make our own decisions
- We do not define students based on their diagnosis

What's Your Mission?

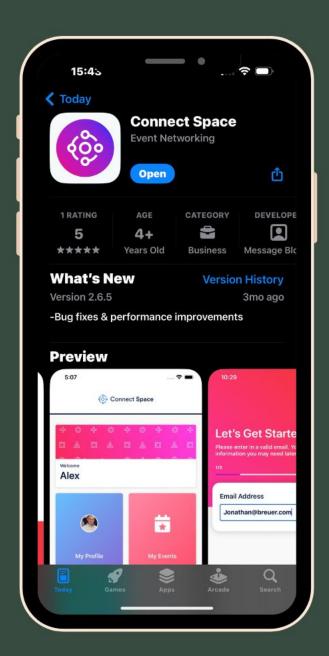




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