

TPS Inclusion Philosophy

Our Mission [what we do...]

“Academic excellence for every student, in every classroom, in every school.”

Inclusion Philosophy

A child, with or without a disability, is first and foremost a child. Every young person entrusted to our care has the same basic needs for health and physical fitness, social membership, and a sense of belonging. We believe that when the needs of any child are met in an integrated way, he or she will function better in every facet of life.

Inclusion is not a destination or a placement; it is the act of educating children with and without special needs together in a general educational setting. Every student has the right to a Free and Appropriate Public Education, and we believe every child’s first placement is in the general educational setting. A continuum of placements, supports, and services should be made available to all students, and we actively seek community partnerships to support inclusion. On those rare occasions when the general educational setting may not be a student’s least restrictive environment, we dedicate ourselves to doing all that is possible to facilitate a return to the general educational classroom with his or her peers.

Students gain self-confidence and learn best when they are educated in the same environment as their peers with the support of kind and caring adults who challenge them every day. We accept, value, and celebrate our differences and similarities in the Taunton Public Schools, and our educators are outstanding role models who collaborate to create inclusive and engaging learning environments. We strive to create an atmosphere of high expectations and joyful learning where students are encouraged to work together, take academic risks, think critically, and pursue successful careers and higher education. We give our students the knowledge and experiences they need to live happy, healthy, and productive lives.



Our Core Values [what we believe...]

TRUST:

We believe that confidence in each other and a belief in each person’s commitment to the educational process create the conditions necessary for children to grow and achieve.

OPTIMISM:

We believe that vibrant educational environments foster student engagement and joyful learning and help to develop a positive outlook for all.

RESPECT FOR ALL:

We believe in the importance of accepting and celebrating all human differences, and treating each student, family and staff member with dignity and respect.

COLLABORATION:

We believe that teamwork and partnerships are essential, and we are stronger and smarter together than we are alone.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS:

We believe high academic standards keep us motivated and engaged, leading to higher levels of achievement.