

Inclusionary Practices Project Community Conversation Protocol

This protocol is designed to elicit input from a diverse group of stakeholders (e.g., students, families, community partners, educators, business leaders) to build a shared understanding of, and commitment to, Inclusion. Each Community Conversation will last approximately 2 hours.

Goals

A Community Conversation creates an opportunity for participants to reflect on:

1. Role of inclusion in helping young people with disabilities to develop as learners, future employees, and community members
2. Relationships and understanding needed for inclusive practices work to be successful

Engaging families and community members in a Community Conversation will help you understand:

- People's aspirations for inclusive practices.
- People's concerns about inclusive practices.
- How people think and talk about inclusion in relation to the community.
- What changes are needed.
- What people believe can be done, and who they can trust to take action.

Planning Considerations

- Forming a planning team
- Identifying and recruiting participants
- Identifying a facilitator
- Choosing table hosts
- Accessible Location
- Accessible date and time
- Planning for childcare
- Translation and interpretation
- Materials needed- poster paper, sticky notes, markers, pens/pencils
- Any displayed materials (i.e., PowerPoint) use strong contrast in text and background
- Food and refreshments

Facilitation Strategies

- Setting up the space
 - a. Consider accessibility (all parts of the room are accessible for everyone), as well as how the space looks and feels
 - b. Microphones are available
 - c. Questions are available in print on tables (and translated if appropriate)
 - d. Prioritize participants representing diversity of different roles and realities. Families, Educators, Community members, Community Based Organizations, Business leaders, etc. Encourage people to spread out across tables so there are mixed roles represented.
- Establishing group agreements and creating a space of belonging
 - a. Introduction question
 - b. Present group agreements
- Creating opportunities for interactivity and multiple modes of engagement accessible to diverse participants - individual reflection, small group discussion, large group discussion, integrate learning - Diamond Pattern of Interaction (Lipton/Wellman)
- Allow people to participate verbally, through writing, and drawing.
- Make sure table host helps to take notes and report out
- Ensuring there are clear opportunities for follow-up (e.g., e-mails, text messages, or communications from the Local Education Agency)

Agenda

1. **Welcome and framing – slides 1-4** (10 minutes)
 - a. Review meeting goals and plan for today's session
 - i. Share information about the Inclusionary Practices Project
 - ii. Discuss what inclusion means to you
 - iii. Get your thoughts and advice
 - b. Group Agreements
2. **Introductions – slide 5** (15 minutes)
 - a. Share your name and your connection to our community.
 - b. *What wisdom do you bring to this conversation?*
3. **Share information about the Community Conversation Process – slide 6** (5 minutes)
4. **Share information about the Inclusionary Practices Project – slides 7 - 9** (5 minutes)
5. **Small group discussion at tables – slide 10** (20 minutes)
 - a. *What does inclusion and belonging look like, sound like, and feel like to you?*
6. **Large Group Share out – slide 11** (10 minutes)
7. **Share information on school, family and community partnerships. Share information about Inclusion work in District/ school – slides 12 - 14** (10 minutes)
8. **Small group discussion at tables – slide 15** (20 minutes)
 - a. *What relationships are vital to develop and strengthen so that students can thrive as learners, future employees, and community members?*
 - b. *What are we missing as we move through this work together?*
9. **Large Group Share out – slide 16** (10 minutes)
10. **Harvest – slide 17** (10 minutes)
 - a. Review of key ideas and concerns by all attendees, followed by a large group discussion of common themes.
 - b. *What did you hear today that resonates with you?*
 - c. *What ideas did you hear that we can work together to take action on?*
11. **Closure, evaluation, thank you, and next steps - slides 18-19** (5 minutes)