

education for all

Our education (system) must be the foundation of building an inclusive Aotearoa for all.

The **Education For All (EFA)** Forum is a collaboration of disabled persons organisations, family and inclusive education organisations, teachers, school principals, researchers ,academics, education sector professionals and people from the children's employment and human rights sectors committed to ensuring all students are well educated in an inclusive education system.

What is Inclusive Education?

Inclusive education is central to the development of inclusive communities and enhancing positive lifelong outcomes for all students including those with disabilities.

Inclusive education means **every** person, social, and cultural group receive an education where all students experience the lifelong benefits of belonging, participating and succeeding in an education system that actively values and responds to their identities and individual needs.

Inclusive education is a human right. Article 24 of The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2007) <http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf> requires that:

States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to education. With a view to realizing this right without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunity, States Parties shall ensure an inclusive education system at all levels and lifelong learning...

General comment No. 4 (2016) is clear on what the right means :

27. Paragraph 2(b) also requires that persons with disabilities are able to attend primary and secondary schools within the communities where they live. Students should not be sent away from home ... Active participation with other students, including siblings of learners with disabilities, is an important component of the right to inclusive education.

EFA KEY MESSAGES

- Every child has a **right** to fully participate, succeed and benefit from education alongside their peers in their local education setting
- **Value** children and young people within one well-funded, responsive and workable system
- The whole system needs **transformation** and rebuilding - decades of reviews and tinkering have not solved the systemic and structural problems which impact adversely on students, families and schools

EFA KEY PRIORITY AREAS (full Priorities document available at <http://www.dpa.org.nz/education-for-all-documents>)

1. Well-adjusted students, schools and communities
2. Confident and capable education settings
3. Strong leadership for inclusive education
4. Accountability, monitoring and enforcement