

California State University San Marcos  
College of Education

**EDUC 350: Foundations of Teaching as a Profession**  
**Fridays, 10:00 – 12:45, Fall 2003**  
CRN 41754

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**and by appointment**

### **Mission Statement of the College of Education**

The mission of the College of Education Community is to transform public education by preparing thoughtful educators and advancing professional practices. We are committed to the democratic principles of educational equality and social justice for all learners, exemplified through reflective teaching, learning, and service. We value diversity, collaboration, professionalism, and shared governance.

### **CLAD Infusion**

In 1992, the College of Education voted to infuse Cross-cultural, Language and Academic Development (CLAD) competencies across the curriculum. The CLAD competencies are attached to the syllabus and the competencies covered in this course are highlighted.

### **Special Education**

Consistent with the intent to offer a seamless teaching credential in the College of Education, this course will introduce the collaborative infusion of special education competencies that reflect inclusive educational practices.

### **Course Description**

This required course serves as an orientation to careers in elementary, middle and high school education. Upon completion of this course, teacher candidates should understand the nature of formalized education in the United States and be able to assess his or her interest in teaching as a career. Major topics include:

- Understanding the roles of schools in society
- Exploring philosophies and contemporary issues in education.
- Assessing the roles of teachers in schools.
- Understanding the qualifications and credentialing process for California teachers.
- Understanding and appreciating the student as an individual.
- Understanding factors affecting student achievement.
- Understanding critical issues in curriculum and instruction.
- Clarification of motives for choosing teaching as a career.

## Course Requirements

It is expected that students will come to class prepared to discuss the readings, submit required assignments, and participate in class activities. Teacher education is a professional preparation program. Students will be expected to adhere to academic honesty and integrity, standards of dependability, confidentiality and writing achievement. **Because it is important for teachers to be able to effectively communicate their ideas to students, parents, colleagues, and administrators, writing that is original, clear and error-free is a priority for the College of Education.** It is expected that work will be turned in on time. Late assignments will be penalized by a 5 point reduction each day they are late and will not be accepted after a week. Please discuss individual issues with the instructor. Keep digital copies of all assignments for your Credential Program Electronic Portfolio. **Note: You may not pass this class without completing the 45 hours of Field Experience.**

### College of Education Attendance Policy

Due to the dynamic and interactive nature of courses in the College of Education, all students are expected to attend all classes and participate actively. Absences and late arrivals/early departures will affect the final grade. If you miss two class sessions or are late (or leave early) for more than three sessions, you cannot receive a grade of A. If you miss 3 class sessions, your highest possible grade is a C+. A minimum grade of C+ is required in EDUC 350 to qualify as prerequisite for admission to the CSUSM teacher credential program. COE attendance policy states, "At a minimum, students must attend 80% of class time, or s/he may not receive a passing grade for the course at the discretion of the instructor. Individual instructors may adopt more stringent attendance requirements." Should students have extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

### Field Work

In addition to in-class work, assigned readings and projects, students will participate in forty-five (45) hours of supervised fieldwork assignments in a variety of public school settings. A recommendation (usually from the classroom teacher where most of the fieldwork is done), as well as a Field Experience Form with documented hours and teacher verification are requirements for admission to the CSUSM Teacher Credentialing programs. A minimum grade of a C+ is also required in this course.

### Use of Technology

Students are expected to demonstrate competency in the use of various forms of technology (i.e. word processing, electronic mail, use of the Internet, and/or multimedia presentations.) Specific requirements for course assignments with regard to technology are at the discretion of the instructor.

### Creating the Inclusive Classroom

Students will demonstrate a knowledge of laws and dispositions that relate to special education through a variety of activities such as the viewing and analysis of the video F.A.T. City, reading and analysis of "School Law & Diversity," and/or *Creating an Inclusive School*.

## Teaching Performance Expectation (TPE) for EDUC 350

A primary goal of EDUC 350 is to begin the process of developing teacher candidates to become professional educators. The following TPE (Teacher Performance Expectation) is expected to be met during this course:

### **TPE 12: Professional, Legal, and Ethical Obligations**

Candidates are aware of their own personal values and biases and recognize ways in which these values and biases affect the teaching and learning of students. They resist racism and acts of intolerance. Candidates appropriately manage their professional time spent in teaching responsibilities to ensure that academic goals are met.

Candidates for a Teaching Credential understand and honor legal and professional obligations to protect the privacy, health, and safety of students, families, and other school professionals. They are aware of and act in accordance with ethical considerations and they model ethical behaviors for students. Candidates understand and honor all laws relating to professional misconduct and moral fitness.

### **Teaching Performance Assessment for Developing as a Professional Educator**

The successful completion of the Initial Philosophy of Teaching Statement is a requirement for completion of this course and partially meeting the TPE described above. This statement will be used for assessment both in the course and at completion of the College of Education program. Retain an electronic copy of your statement for submission for your portfolio at the completion of the program.

Class Activities that support the development of your philosophy include:

Credo for Support	Class Discussions
FAT City Activity	Readings/ Book Chat
Law and Diversity Activity	Contemporary Issues Research
Inclusive Education Activity	Field Experiences

### **Required Texts**

Armstrong, David; Henson, Kenneth and Savage, Tom. (2001) *Teaching Today*. Merrill Prentice Hall.

Thousand, J. "Laws Related to Special Education that Affect Teachers" - Essay is attached.

Villa, Richard A. and Thousand, Jacqueline S. (1995). *Creating an Inclusive School*. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

And your choice of ONE of the following :

Codell, E. *Educating Esme*. Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill.

Humphrey, T. (2003) *In the First Few Years*. Newark, DE: International Reading Association.

Michie, G. (1999) *Holler If You Hear Me*. New York: Teacher's College Press.

### **Course Assignments:**

#### **1. Contemporary/Controversial Issue Research/Position Paper**

Choose an issue from the topics provided by the instructor. Research the issue thoroughly and take a position regarding it. Write a persuasive paper that demonstrates your understanding of the issue, provides a clear defense for your position, and also indicates your understanding of the opposing side. Cite a minimum of three (3) references; **you may not cite your text. Only one source may be a web-site. One must be an educational journal.** Use APA, 5<sup>th</sup> edition format (Approximately 5 pages.) When your topic is due, you should

be prepared to support/defend either side in a panel discussion. We will discuss the format of the panel in class.

**Due Dates: See syllabus.**

## **2. Electronic Book Chat**

Choose the "Choice Book" you wish to read and discuss it with other class members. Conduct an electronic book chat via e-mails in which you contribute a minimum of **three** substantive comments about the book by making connections with your own educational experience, your perceptions of the field, or readings you have done for this course. We will discuss this more specifically in class.

**Due Date: November 14**

## **3. Field Experience Documentation and Journal Entries**

In addition to in-class work, assigned readings, and projects, you will participate in forty-five (45) hours of supervised fieldwork assignments in a variety of public school classroom settings. **See page 2 of this syllabus for more details.** You will maintain a log of hours spent observing/participating in these classroom settings. This log should reflect a minimum of 45 hours spent in various classrooms at the different grade levels and on different sites, with teacher signatures.

*In additions, you will maintain a journal, reflecting on your observations, documenting assumptions/expectations, interesting observations, and connections to concepts studied in EDUC 350, analyses and questions.* Respect the confidentiality of the students and teacher. Use initials or fictitious names. **A minimum of 15 journal entries is required.** The format to use will be explained in class

**Due Dates: See syllabus.**

## **4. Teacher Interview**

You will write a 2-4 page paper based on an extended interview with a public school teacher who has been teaching at least three years. Include both a summary of answers to key questions as well as an analysis of your personal reflections and connections to course concepts.

**Key Skills/Knowledge I'll be evaluating:**

- Has your paper provided a rich description of the teacher you interviewed?
- *Does your paper integrate appropriate class readings and discussions to support your analyses? (i.e. Are several references made to our text, articles, or journal readings?)*
- Have you articulated your ideas fluently and coherently with college level writing style and mechanics?

**Due Date: October 17**

## **5. Law and Diversity Assignment**

See attached description on page 8 of this syllabus.

**Due Date: October 3**

## **6. Rationale for Inclusive Education**

See attached description on page 12 of this syllabus.

**Due Date: September 26**

**7. Personal Philosophy of Teaching, Learning, and Schooling (in place of final exam)**

See attached description on page 7 of this syllabus. The successful completion of the Initial Philosophy of Teaching Statement is a requirement for completion of this course and partially meets the TPE 12: PROFESSIONAL, LEGAL, AND ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS. This statement will be used for assessment both in the course and at the completion of the College of Education program. Retain an electronic copy of your statement for submission in your portfolio.

**Due Date: December 12**

**Class Schedule (Subject to Change!)**

**Note: Assignments are to be completed before class on the date listed.**

Date	Topic	Reading/ Assignments
September 5	<b>Why</b> teach? Teaching in the age of change; Assumptions, Biases; Seeing through the eyes of a teacher	
September 12	Field Work Expectations; <b>Who</b> are we teaching? Exceptional Learners; Credo for Support	T.T. Ch. 5 Villa/Thousand, pp. 162-167 Begin choice book
September 19	Inclusion, Differentiation; F.A.T. City Activity	Villa/Thousand Ch 1,2,3
September 26	Multiculturalism; <b>Panel Discussion #1 Should Bilingual Education be abolished?</b>	T.T. Ch. 4 <b>Rationale for Inclusion Field Experience Journals #1-5</b>
October 3	Legal Issues that Affect Teachers; Laws Relating to Special Education	T.T. Ch. 3 Villa/Thousand Hand Out <b>Law and Diversity Write-Up</b>
October 10	Learner's Rights and Responsibilities; <b>Panel Discussion #2 Will more federal involvement result in better education?</b>	T.T. Ch. 6 Continue reading choice book
October 17	<b>How</b> will we teach them? Effective Instruction; What is Middle School? Guest Speaker- Janet McDaniel	T.T. Ch. 7 <b>Teacher Interview</b>
October 24	Creating Environments for Learning; Classroom Management	T.T. Ch. 8 Work on philosophy
October 31	Assessing Learning; <b>Panel Discussion #3: Do high stake assessments improve learning?</b>	T.T. Ch. 9 <b>Field Experience Journals #6-10</b>

November 7	<b>What</b> is our goal/role in society? Historical Roots; Philosophical Systems, NCLB	T.T. Ch. 10 - 12
November 14	<b>Panel Discussion #4: Are vouchers an important choice mechanism?</b> Curriculum and State Standards	T.T. Ch. 13-14 <b>Electronic Book Chat- Bring one journal per group</b>
November 21	Independent Study (Catch up on Field Work)	Work on philosophy
December 5	Book talk; Writer's Workshop; <b>Where</b> do we go from here?	T.T. Ch. 2 <b>Bring rough draft of philosophy</b>
December 12	Credentialing process; Discussion of fieldwork: <b>Where</b> will you teach?	<b>Philosophy of Teaching Field Experience Journals #11-15</b>

**Course Assignment Values**

Field Experience Journal Entries #1-15	30%
Electronic Book Chat	10%
Law and Diversity Write-Up	10%
Teacher Interview	10%
Personal Philosophy	15%
Rationale for Inclusive Education	5%
Contemporary Issues Research and Presentation	<u>20%</u>
	100%

## **Initial Philosophy of Teaching Statement**

EDUC 350

Learner Outcomes:	Articulation in writing of a personal philosophy of teaching
Assessment:	Word processed philosophy of teaching statement and 1-page credo

### **Activity Description**

#### **Preparation**

Complete previous course readings, web page examinations, and in-class discussions on education law, ethics, history, and inclusive philosophy.

#### **Reflection and Applications**

Write an essay that articulates your personal philosophy of teaching given your view of the social context of schooling for 21<sup>st</sup> century inclusive, multicultural society. Do not be tempted to include a little of every way of thinking or take the words or ideas of various educational leaders. If you were to do so, elements would probably contradict each other and would not provide guidance when you need it. In preparing your philosophy statement, begin by quickly jotting down answers to each of the following seven sets of questions. To address the questions, think solely about your OWN ideas. Write no more than a 1/2 of a page to answer each question, taken in order. Interpret the questions any way you like; they are meant to guide you in discovering what you believe.

1. What is the social context of schooling for 21<sup>st</sup> century multicultural society?
2. What is the good? Who is the good person living in the good society?
3. What is the purpose of education?
4. What should everyone learn? Why?
5. What is the nature of learning?
6. What is (excellent) teaching?
7. What does school do?

Now consider the answers to these questions as a set and begin to write the first draft of your philosophy of teaching essay. After composing this first draft, check to see that that your statements are consistent and revise so that your ideas and statements are coherent. Take out extra words. Read your statements aloud to yourself and at least one friend to be sure you truly communicate your heartfelt beliefs and convictions. Your criteria for success are at least the following: 1) no more words can be cut, and 2) an oral reading convinces YOU fully of the soundness of your philosophy.

The essay should meet the following two criteria. First, it should be a concise expression of personal philosophy of teaching given your view of the social context of schooling for 21<sup>st</sup> century multicultural society. Secondly, this response should be no less than 2 and no more than 3 pages in length. When completed, write a shortened version of your philosophy, a one-page “credo.” Keep your philosophy statement and credo where you can refer to it often. Use them to guide to organization of a professional portfolio.

It should take approximately a total of two hours to develop and polish your philosophy statement and restate it as a credo. It likely will take three or more “sittings” to get out a draft that meets the two-pronged criteria stated in the previous paragraph.

## **Law and Diversity**

EDUC 350

- Learner Outcomes: Applies understanding of the legal context of inclusive education and laws which influence teaching responsibilities by posting the five most important school laws the student believes affects him/her as a professional educator. At least one posting needs to relate to special education law and reacting to other postings on an asynchronous discussion board regarding this topic.
- Assessment: Written identification of the five most important school laws the student believes affect him/her as a professional educator, with at least one of the five relating to special education law.

### **Activity Description**

#### **Preparation**

Study the following chapters and web sites:

- Thousand, J.S. (attached). Laws that relation to special education that affect teachers.
- Kluth, P., Villa, R., & Thousand, J. (Dec. 2001/Jan 2002) 'Our school doesn't offer inclusion' and other legal blunders. Educational Leadership, 59 (4), 24 – 27.
- Villa, R. A. & Thousand, J. S. (1995). Creating an inclusive school. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Read all of Chapter 2.

U.S. Disability Law. Internet address:  
[www.law.cornell.edu/topics/disability.html](http://www.law.cornell.edu/topics/disability.html)  
Includes information about laws affecting people with disabilities.

OSERS IDEA Home Page. Internet address:  
[www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/IDEA](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/IDEA)  
Explanation of federal legislation known as IDEA which ensures a free appropriate education in the least restrictive environment for children with disabilities. The latest 1997 federal reauthorization of the law is explained in detail.

#### **Reflection and Applications**

Apply your understanding of the legal context of inclusive education and laws which influence your teaching responsibilities by:

1. In writing, identify five laws or court decisions which influence you as a professional educator. At least one of these five must be related to special education law.
2. In class, share selections and rationale for your selection of the laws and decisions.
3. As closure, in class you will “quick write” in three to four sentences, what you learned about your legal and ethical responsibilities and in what ways they influence your educational philosophy.

## Laws Related to Special Education that Affect Teachers

Jacqueline Thousand

Chapter 2 of Villa and Thousand (1995), *Contemplating Inclusive Education from a Historical Perspective*, charts over 200 years of history which has brought us as a country to embrace inclusive educational opportunities for all children. What follows is a summary of key court cases and legislation which have shaped special education and the teacher's role in supporting students with varying learning and language differences. For more detail see these two web sites:

[www.law.cornell.edu/topics/disability.html](http://www.law.cornell.edu/topics/disability.html) and [www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/IDEA](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/IDEA).

### Legislation Related to Special Education

The development of special education services in this country has been greatly influenced by the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Out of the movement came legislation designed to prevent discrimination. For instance Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a civil rights law that prevents discrimination against all persons with disabilities in programs that receive federal funds. Since all public schools receive federal funds in some form, Section 504 ensures equal opportunity for students' participation in the full range of school activities. Also, through Section 504, some students who are not eligible for special education services may receive accommodations to assist them to be successful in school. For example, students with health problems such as asthma or extreme allergies as well as other challenges that do not make them eligible for special education may receive assistance through Section 504.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), signed into law by President Bush in 1990 extends the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 by protecting all individuals with disabilities from discrimination and requires employers to make reasonable accommodations for employees with disabilities. ADA does not deal directly with education; however, it does clarify the civil rights of all people with disabilities and ensures that buildings, transportation, and other public places (including schools) are accessible to people with disabilities. Your school must be accessible to wheelchairs, for instance. If it is not, it must undergo renovations to install ramps, elevators, or wide entryways.

In 1975 the U.S. federal government finally made a legal commitment to the education of students with disabilities. In that year Congress passed Public Law 94-142, the Education for the Handicapped Act (EHA) which set federal guidelines for special education services. It translated early court decisions into civil rights principles for students with disabilities and mandated the six concepts that have guided special education practice ever since. Those six principles are:

1. **Free Appropriate Public Education.** Students with disabilities are entitled to attend public schools and to receive the educational services they need. This education is provided at no cost to parents.
2. **Least Restrictive Environment.** Students with disabilities must be educated in the least restrictive environment in which they can succeed with support. For most students, this environment is the general education classroom.
3. **Individualized Education Program.** Services for students with disabilities must be individually tailored. This is accomplished by annually developing or revising an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Every IEP includes a statement of the student's current performance levels, a set of goals and accompanying short-term benchmarks or objectives for achieving the goals. The IEP clearly specifies who is responsible for delivering various aspects of the student's program, how progress will be evaluated, and where and how long services will be provided.
4. **Nondiscriminatory Evaluation.** Students are to be assessed using instruments that do not discriminate on the basis of race, culture, or disability. In considering eligibility for special education, students must be assessed by a multidisciplinary team in their native language using tests that directly relate to the area(s) of concern for which the child was referred.

5. **Due Process.** Due process procedures protect students with disabilities and their parents in all special education affairs. Specifically, if a disagreement occurs between the family and school personnel regarding a student's eligibility for special education, no changes can be made in the student's services until an impartial hearing and, if necessary, the appropriate court resolves the issue. School personnel also are protected if they disagree with parents' requests for services; they also may use due process procedures to resolve the dispute.
6. **Zero Reject and Child Find.** No student may be excluded from public education because of a disability. Each state also must take action to locate children who may be entitled to special education services.

Public laws must be periodically reauthorized. The 1990 reauthorization of P.L. 94-142 described above changed the law to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The more suitable person-first language of "individual with disabilities" replace the unfavorable labeling language of "the handicapped" in the title of the legislation. This law added significantly to providing education to very young children with disabilities and preparing older student for transition to post-secondary life. Two new categories of disability – autism and traumatic brain injury – were added to the already existing categories of learning disabilities, speech or language impairments, mental retardation, emotional disturbance, hearing impairments, visual impairments, deaf-blindness, orthopedic impairments, multiple disabilities, and other health impairments. It also funded projects to promote the inclusion of students with severe disabilities in general education.

In 1997, President Clinton signed into law the second reauthorization of P.L. 94-142 and accompanying amendments know as IDEA 97. Seven significant changes greatly affect schools, teachers, and educational and assessment practices.

1. **General Education Teacher Involvement.** At least one general educator must participate as a member of a student's IEP team. The IEP also must directly address the student's participation in general education and must justify placements that are not in general education.
2. **Evaluation and Eligibility.** IDEA 97 clarifies that when parents consent to have their child evaluated, they are not consenting to possible future special education placement. Students cannot be made eligible for special education because of past poor instruction or because of language differences. Previous requirements that a comprehensive reevaluation occurs every three years can be modified if the family desires; already existing information can be used rather than repeated administration of standardized tests.
3. **Assessment of All Students.** Historically students receiving special education services were not included in state, district, or school-wide assessment of student performance. IDEA 97 corrected this by requiring that by July, 2000, each state must assess the academic progress of students who have IEPs by including them in the standardized assessments other students task or by using an alternative assessment process. Students who need appropriate adaptations such as extended time or large print during assessment are entitled to these adaptations.
4. **Discipline.** If needed, the IEP must include strategies for addressing student behavior issues. A behavior pan must be developed, if a student is suspended or placed in an alternative interim placement. If a student with disabilities brings a weapon or drugs to school, the school now has the option to place the student in an alternative placement for up to 45 days; and that placement must provide continued special education services.
5. **Transition.** Beginning at age 14, IEPs must address the transition to post-secondary needs of students eligible for special education. These needs must be updated annually, with increasing detail each year as to the school and outside services (e.g., community vocational education) the student will access.
6. **Paraprofessionals.** Paraprofessionals, teaching assistants, aides, and like personnel must be trained for their jobs and appropriately supervised.
7. **Mediation.** As part of due process procedural rights, each state must make mediation available to parents as an early and informal strategy for resolving disputes over a student with disabilities' identification, placement or services. The State bears the cost of mediation. Parents do not have to mediate; and mediation may not delay a possible due process hearing.

## Court Cases Influencing Special Education

Issues concerning students with disabilities are addressed by federal and state laws. How these laws are interpreted often is resolved through the courts. Since 1954, many hundreds of legal decisions have clarified the rights of students with disabilities and the role of educators in supporting these children's education. In many instances court decisions led to the development of and passage of legislation. As you review some of the landmark decisions listed here, you should notice how they influenced legislation described earlier.

- **Brown v. Board of Education (1954).** This probably is the most important case in establishing the principle that school segregation denies equal education opportunity. Although the decision refers primarily to racial segregation, it is viewed as the foundation for ensuring equal educational opportunity for students with disabilities.
- **Diana v. State board of Education (1970).** California was required to correct biased assessment practices with Chinese American and Mexican American students. Students for whom English was not a primary language had to be assessed in both their primary language and English; culturally biased items had to be dropped from tests and alternative intelligence tests had to be developed to reflect Mexican American culture.
- **Larry P. v. Riles (1984).** In California it was ruled that IQ testing as a basis for identifying African American students as mentally retarded for special education purposes was discriminatory. California schools were ordered to reduce the disproportionately high numbers of African American students in special classes for students with mental retardation.
- **Honig v. Doe (1998).** This decision ruled that if a student is excluded from school for more than 10 days, it was a change of placement and all procedures for making a change of placement must be followed.
- **Daniel R.R. v. State Board of Education. (1989).** This decision established the consideration of the following two factors in determining the appropriateness of a placement for a student with disabilities: 1) whether a student can be satisfactorily educated in general education with supplementary supports and services, and 2) whether, in cases in which the general education setting is not successful, the student is mainstreamed to the maximum extent appropriate.
- **Oberti v. Board of Education of Clementon School District (1993).** This case is considered key in establishing the principle of inclusive education. In this case concerning a student with Down syndrome, the district court ruled and the court of appeals upheld the ruling that school districts must make available a full range of supports and services in general education to accommodate the needs of students with disabilities. The court stipulated that because a student learns differently from others does not necessarily warrant exclusion from general education.
- **Doe v. Withers (1993).** Mr. Withers, a history teacher, was responsible for making oral testing accommodations for Douglas Doe, a student with learning disabilities who was in his class. Although a state legislator, Mr. Withers refused to provide the oral testing. Consequently, Douglas failed the class, making him ineligible for athletics. The court awarded the family \$5000 in compensatory damages and \$30,000 in punitive damages. This case is widely cited as an example of general educators' responsibility to make good faith efforts to provide required accommodations for students with disabilities.
- **Sacramento Unified City School District v. Rachel H. (1994).** This case is another historic national victory for inclusive education, not only because the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals required the Sacramento school district to place Rachel Holland, a girl with severe disabilities, in regular education classes full-time with non-disabled peers, but because the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the school district's 11<sup>th</sup> hour appeal to overturn the Ninth Circuit's decision. This left the circuit court's landmark decision intact and, in the words of the Holland's attorney, "signaled the end to a system that automatically excludes children with disabilities from the regular classroom and relegates them to segregated 'handicapped only' classes.

Source: Much of the material presented above is adapted from Marilyn Friend and William Bursuch's excellent 1999 text, Including Students with Special Needs: A Practical Guide for Classroom Teachers (2<sup>nd</sup>

ed.), published in Boston by Allyn and Bacon. Many thanks to both authors for their fine analysis and synthesis of complex and often obtuse court decisions and laws.

## **Rationale for Inclusive Education**

EDUC 350

- Learner Outcomes: Demonstrate understanding of the rationale for inclusive schooling
- Assessment: Word processed response to the following two questions, including a rationale for each response.
- Personally and professionally, which of the rationales for change are most compelling to you; that is, which are most likely to lead you to reject continued segregation of general and special education and instead support a unified, inclusive educational system? Why?
  - Which of the rationales would your colleagues, supervisors, students, community members, and policy makers find most compelling? Why?

### **Activity Description**

After reading the chapters and “voices” from the Villa and Thousand Creating an Inclusive School text that are listed below and visiting the Internet sites listed below, reflect on the following two questions which also are posed on page 40 of Creating an Inclusive School.

- Personally and professionally, which of the rationales for change are most compelling to you; that is, which are most likely to lead you to reject continued segregation of general and special education and instead support a unified, inclusive educational system? Why?
- Which of the rationales would your colleagues, supervisors, students, community members, and policy makers find most compelling? Why?

Compose (i.e., word process) a response to these two questions, including the rationale for each of your responses.

### **Readings and Internet Sites for Activity**

Villa, R. A. & Thousand, J. S. (1995). Creating an inclusive school. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Forward

Chapters 1, 2, & 3

Voices: pp. 13 – 15, pp. 45 – 50, and pp. 125-135

Friends of Inclusion Resource page

Internet address: [inclusion.com/resourc.html](http://inclusion.com/resourc.html)

Links to various disability-related sites with an emphasis on inclusion.

Inclusion Press

Internet address: [inclusion.com](http://inclusion.com)

Great Canadian publishing company with products and links to other inclusion sites.

Just Because We Have A Disability Doesn't Mean We BYTE!

Internet address: [library.advanced.org/11799](http://library.advanced.org/11799)

A web site developed by children with disabilities focusing on accepting differences.

The Inclusion Series

Internet address: [comforty.com/inclusionseries.htm](http://comforty.com/inclusionseries.htm)

Encourages inclusion of people with disabilities into school and community life.

Use your browser and the key words, “inclusion” or inclusive education to find additional sites.