

EDUCATING ALL OUR CHILDREN

A Resource and Planning Guide
That Supports a Commitment to Excellence,
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusiveness

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• Parents and educators want to increase the number of students
• who will be fully prepared for productive and fulfilling adult
• lives. Federal initiatives such as the “Improving America’s
• Schools Act,”(IASA), including Eisenhower moneys to increase
• proficiency in mathematics, “Goals 2000,” the Individuals with
• Disabilities Education Act, the Carl D. Perkins Vocational
• Education and Applied Technology Act have all included either
• set-asides for equity or major requirements for equity. State
• assessment systems, special education requirements, and
• performance standards and indicators have been put in place to
• increase the number of students who succeed. Programming at
• the local level, such as alternative schools, gifted and talented
• programs, accelerated learning programs, and teen pregnancy
• and parenting programs have all focused on increasing the
• number of students who succeed. These programs are
• specifically designed to address diversity in the student body,
• and to assure equitable access of all students to their schools’
• programs. Laws exist at the state and federal level designed to
• help students achieve by protecting them from discrimination
• on the basis of sex, race, national origin, religion, ancestry,
• pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or
• physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Yet more
• needs to be done.

• It is urgent that we realize true equity, that we honor and build
• on the diversity of our students; but to do so means making
• major changes in how we do business in schools. We have been
• reluctant to focus on equity, in part because we mistakenly think
• that if someone else gains, we will lose. Furthermore, some of
• us simply do not know how to address equity, diversity, the
• inclusion of all students, nor how to help each child succeed at
• his or her best. We have grown accustomed to regarding equity
• and diversity as negatives, something we must attend to, one
• more claim on our time and energy, rather than recognizing
• them as benefits and energizers for us all.

• In this project, we hope to transform the negative into positive.
• Join us in the journey to achieve that dream.

About the Authors

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