

***Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council's  
Position on Universal Education***

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council believes that schools should be organized according to the State Board of Education's framework and foundation which was established in their document: *Universal Education: Vision and Principles* (approved October, 2005). Further, we hold policy makers, legislators, and other government officials responsible for removing legal, attitudinal, and practical barriers in all schools. Additionally, the Council believes and advocates the following:

- all children have a right to education;
- all children are capable of learning;
- the right of children with disabilities to an education in which they are included with their peers is a civil right, not just a "special education" issue;
- children are more successful in school when their parents are actively involved in their education and when parents and educators work in partnership;
- schools should support different styles of learning by implementing the principles of universal design for learning;
- teachers are informed and trained in the implementation of current best practices regarding the education of children with disabilities, and are given appropriate resources and support; and
- any benefits of future changes in the laws affecting quality assurance, school choice, school funding, online instruction, and other related school issues be made available equally to children with disabilities.

These principles are supported by both state and federal education laws. Full implementation will result in better outcomes for all students which, in turn, will benefit all Michigan communities.

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