Belonging Together
On-Demand, Digital PD for Teachers

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” Psalm 139:13-14 (NIV)
Objectives

• The participant will be able to inclusively reach and teach every student in the classroom.

• The participant will be able to recognize student’s unique learning profiles.

• The participant will be able to utilize strategies to effectively teach every student in my class.

Check-In

Items needed: Name badges and lanyards (if necessary), sharpies, school faculty roster (download here. Note: Scroll down to view your roster and export all to Excel.)

Instructions: Have at least one volunteer managing the check-in location for participants. They will need a printed copy of the registration list. As participants arrive, check off their name from the printed list. If using name badges and lanyards, give to each participant and provide a nearby table with sharpies for them to write their name on the badge.

Optional Worship

Five to ten minutes before the session is scheduled to begin, you may opt to include a short time of worship. This may help to set the tone for the day!
Opening Session
20 Minutes

NOTE: To adequately prepare for discussion, it would be helpful to arrange faculty into small table groups of 4-6 people at each table.

Welcome faculty and staff  |  Share a devotional  |  Encourage partner prayer

Begin the day by welcoming the participants and thanking them for investing in themselves, so they can truly make a difference in the lives of students. The opening session is a time for you to give participants an overview of the day, so they know what to expect and get settled in to learn. You may wish to provide them with any relevant instructions regarding the morning sessions, schedule, or other items as needed. You may also start the day with a devotional and prayer to prepare all hearts for learning and growth.

Session 1
Facilitator note: A NOTE ABOUT PARTICIPANT NOTEBOOK. The participant notebook is a fillable PDF and may be used to take notes on a laptop or device as well.

“All Belong” presented by Elizabeth Dombrowski
Do you personally desire to be more inclusive? Does your school desire to be an inclusive community? As part of our Flourishing School Culture Model, Responsiveness to Special Needs is has been identified as a construct under the Expertise & Resources Domain and an indicator of a flourishing school. Elizabeth Dombrowski, Executive Director of All Belong, walks through the history of inclusion and what it means to be an inclusive school for students of all abilities.

Engagement 1
Facilitator note: As you transition into Engagement 1, gauge the room to determine if a brief break is needed. You may choose to go right into this next activity, which will engage the participants into thinking about the strengths and challenges of every person in their classroom, including themselves. This activity addresses the objective that participants are committed to inclusively reaching and teaching every student in their classroom.

Materials:

Puzzle Pieces (1 per participant from appendix)
Scissors
6. Determine adjustments needed so all students are included.

“Conclusion” presented by Elizabeth Dombrowski

Reflection/Discussion

Tech note: There is no video content for this time, but it may be nice to have soft instrumental music playing in the background to help participants focus.

Lead participants in 5 minutes of personal reflection:

*PD by Design Participant Notebook - pages 20*

- What are the benefits to all students for making steps toward better inclusive strategies?
- What step in the three-step process is the most challenging for you?

Lead participants in 7 minutes of Small Group Discussions:

*PD by Design Participant Notebook - page 20*

- What is the number one challenge we need to address as a school in order to create an inclusive learning environment?
- What steps can we as a school agree on taking toward a more inclusive learning environment?
- How can we creatively work together to support each other as teachers and meet the needs of all students?

Large Group Share Out

*Provide 3 minutes for popcorn sharing.*
Conclusion
Facilitator note: You may choose to conduct the conclusion as a larger group, or you may break down into smaller groups by lower and upper grades or in smaller numbers of 5-7 in a group. During this time, invite participants to share some key insights or highlights from the day. Close in a time of prayer for your school, faculty, staff, students and families.

Wrap-up
Facilitator note: At the end of your professional development day(s), please remember to do the following to claim CEUs for your faculty:

Step 1: Download your school roster here if you have not already done so. (see Check-In notes)

Note: Scroll down to view your roster and export all to Excel.

Step 2: Remove the rows of individuals that did NOT participate.

Step 3: Email the updated roster to ACSI_professionaldevelopment@acsi.org with subject line: “PD by Design CEUs”

Upon submission the 1.0 CEU certificates will appear in your faculty’s individual VPPs within approximately 14 days.

May the Lord cause you to flourish, both you and your children.
Psalm 115:14

Appendix Links
- Puzzle Piece
- Gorilla Video
- Messy Room Photo
- Dinosaur Footprints photo
- Neurodevelopment Frameworks
- Effective Strategies for Teaching handout