

Everyone Together
“All children, all together, all the time.”



RESOLUTION
On Early Childhood Inclusion
Adopted May 17, 2006

Whereas *Everyone Together* and its member networks promote Universal Education, which is “an approach to education that creates learning environments which are inherently designed for diversity, thus making natural educational settings accessible to all children, all together, all the time”;

And whereas it is the position of *Everyone Together* that any exclusion, separation or segregation is unacceptable, particularly based on disability, and therefore must be clearly identified as detrimental and divisive;

And whereas the Michigan State Board of Education adopted a policy framework for Universal Education on October 11, 2005;

And whereas federal requirements for Early On clearly support the provision of education and related services in natural environments;

And whereas federal requirements for Special Education preschool services clearly support the provision of education and related services in the Least Restrictive Environment;

And whereas the Governor has a stated priority to focus on Early Childhood for future positive outcomes;

And whereas it is imperative that Universal Education start at an early age in order to be effective across the K-12 continuum and beyond;

And whereas parental/family participation and engagement are critical to the success of Universal Education for infants and young children;

And whereas real and perceived barriers in finance, certification and other administrative rules and policies hinder effective implementation of Universal Education;

It is hereby resolved that:

1. The Michigan public school system eliminate segregation and address how to recreate itself to support Universal Education beginning with Early Childhood Education Programs;

Everyone Together is a joint project of UCP Michigan and UCP Metro Detroit and is funded by the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council.



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2. New state-level initiatives such as Project Great Start must develop, support, and ensure compliance of standards that ensure all students learn together in Early Childhood Programs;
3. All Early Childhood efforts and programs—public and private, federal and state—must work together, share resources and remove barriers to access so that mutual benefits arising from Universal Education can be achieved;
4. All the entities providing education must include families/parents in all decision-making roles and activities;
5. Higher educational institutions must impart attitudes, skills and knowledge that support Universal Education to future educators and related service providers in support;
6. Finance, certification and other administrative rules and policies must be designed to support Universal Education beginning with Early Childhood programs and through the K-12 curriculum.

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Network Locations by County: Wayne, Van Buren, St. Clair, Ottawa, Oakland, Muskegon, Monroe, Midland, Macomb, Livingston, Kent, Kalamazoo, Isabella, Ingham, Gratiot, Clare, Barry, Allegan (3,300 Involved Parents)

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