



FROM DISABILITY TO POSSIBILITY

Patrick A. Schwarz, Ph.D.
www.patrickschwarz.com

TENETS OF POSSIBILITY STUDIES

- Diversity is good.
- Special Education is a service, not a sentence.
- No double standards.
- A general education shouldn't need to be earned.
- Inclusion may not be easier, but it is better.
- The dignity of risk applies to all people.
- Parents are the gold standard.
- Get rid of the labels.
- Make education real.
- Disability is normal





TENET ONE: DIVERSITY IS GOOD

- Andrew influenced students for a lifetime! Learning about diversity at a young age creates adults who offer more support and acceptance. Remember these children will become the adults who are co-workers, employers neighbors and **FRIENDS!** It is never too late to teach people about diversity!

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION?

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TENET TWO: SPECIAL EDUCATION IS A SERVICE AND NOT A SENTENCE!

- Service vs. place
- The purpose of the service is to support learners to general education success
- How do we get to that point?

JASON—ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Create a support plan around a learner
- How we view and characterize a learner is everything!
- Inclusion is a model where you support a person where they are at and take steps towards success without prerequisites.





TENET THREE: NO DOUBLE STANDARDS

- Adam & Robert: Middle school
- Learning *the rules* is essential!
- Double standards serve to often hurt a learner even when people think they are being well-intentioned.

TENET FOUR: A GENERAL EDUCATION SHOULDN'T NEED TO BE EARNED

- Matt: A reintegration plan is a must
- A student should not need to earn their way into general education, but may do something to earn his or her way out
- Criteria need to be established for reintegration rather than throwing the key away to general education environments



TENET FIVE: INCLUSION MAY NOT BE EASIER BUT IT IS BETTER

- Brian: Carefully look at what everyone else is doing and don't give up!
- Advocate, advocate, advocate!
- Teach students self-determination
- We all have to live together in the real world. There are not self-contained grocery stores, hotels and restaurants!



TENET SIX: THE DIGNITY OF RISK APPLIES TO ALL PEOPLE

- Tim: High School
- The *Dignity of Risk* is important for everyone to learn!
- Care vs. independence
- Don't penalize a person with a *possibility* because of the mistakes of others



TENET SEVEN: PARENTS ARE THE GOLD STANDARD

- David & Tonya: Don't make assumptions. Walk a mile in their shoes!
- The answer is quite simple folks! Parents are the experts and know the most about their child. Remember parents have their child the other 18 hours of the day outside of school!





TENET EIGHT: GET RID OF THE LABELS!

- Franklin: Labels were not helpful in any way to characterize him as a learner and human being. He liked sports, going out to eat and socializing. He was more like everyone else rather than different!



TENET NINE: MAKE EDUCATION REAL

- Bill: Making it real gave him real outcomes!
- Sometimes tough love is needed to teach something when other strategies and techniques are not successful.



TENET TEN: DISABILITY IS NORMAL

- Bob: We will all have a disability someday if we are lucky to get it...



OLD AGE!!

EMBRACE IT...