

Core Mindsets for Inclusive Schools

All Students Can Learn and Grow

Definition: This foundational belief drives high expectations and appropriate support for every learner.

When Present	When Missing
 High expectations with appropriate support Focus on progress and potential Student agency In learning Strengths-based approaches 	 Low expectations Fixed ability thinking Limited opportunities Deficit focus

Serving Exceptional Learners is Collective Responsibility

Definition: This mindset breaks down the artificial divide between general and special education.

When Present	When Missing
 Shared ownership of success Collaborative Planning Integrated supports 	 Siloed services Fragmented support Isolated expertise
 Universal Design 	 Inconsistent access



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Inclusive Environments Benefit All Students

Definition: This belief recognizes that Inclusion strengthens the entire school community.

When Present	When Missing
Diverse learning celebrated	Segregated spaces
 Flexible grouping 	 Single approach
 Multiple paths to success 	 Limited belonging
 Strong community 	 Divided community

Parents/Families Want the Best for Their Children

Definition: This mindset transforms family partnerships, from communication to a team approach.

When Present	When Missing
Partnership approach	 Adversarial relationships
 Two-way communication 	 One-way directives
 Shared decision-making 	 Limited engagement
 Strengths focus 	 Problem focus



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Engaging with Empathy Has Value

Definition: This belief underpins meaningful relationships with students and families.

When Present	When Missing
 Multiple perspectives considered Cultural competence Student voice centered Authentic relationships 	 Single narrative Cultural bias Student voices ignored Surface relationships