



# 5 Myths of Inclusion: Debunking Misconceptions to Improve Inclusion in Catholic Schools

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Inclusion in Catholic Schools Special Issue



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## Big Idea

- Including students with disabilities in Catholic schools is more than just a good idea, it fits with our Catholic faith as the right thing to do.
- You are likely already serving some students with disabilities in your school, this presentation will:
  - affirm your efforts
  - ground your work in our shared beliefs
  - provide you justification to validate your journey



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Example Articles

- Exploring the Church's Call for Inclusion
- **Why Inclusion Isn't Coming, It Is Already Here**
- Defining Inclusionary Practices
- Building Capacity for Service Delivery in Catholic Schools
- EBPs to Promote Inclusion in Today's Catholic School
- Inclusion from Inception to Implementation
- The Inclusive Church and Children with Disabilities



- Inclusion in Catholic Schools  
Volume 23, Issue 2(2021)
- Authors:
  - Boyle
  - Bonfiglio & Kroh
  - Faggella-Luby
  - Smith, Cheatham, Amilivia, & Mosher
  - Engel
  - Carter
- Respondents:
  - Benton
  - Bullock & O'Linn
  - Reffett
  - Morten
  - Foraker
  - Hopson
  - Masters



 *Why Inclusion Isn't Coming, It Is Already Here* 

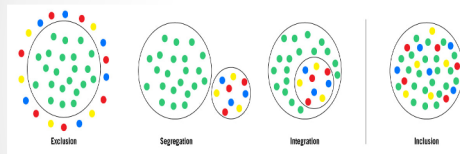
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# Debunking Misconceptions

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# We are not Tilting at Windmills



## Misconception #1:

### • Almost Only Counts in Horseshoes...and Inclusion

- Standard is Least Restrictive Environment
- Goal is meaningful inclusion
- Inclusion reduces:
  - Inequality
  - Stigma
  - Limited outcomes



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# We are not Tilting at Windmills



I AM NOT INTERESTED IN COMPETING.  
I HOPE WE ALL WIN.



@parscaeli

## Misconception #2:

### • If We Engage in Inclusion, Only Students with Disabilities Will Benefit

- First, SWD DO benefit!
- Others:
  - Students
    - Academic
    - Social
  - Educators
  - Families



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## We are not Tilting at Windmills



### Misconception #3:

#### • Our View of Disability Doesn't Matter

- How we are superior to one another (Deficit perspective)
- How we value each other (Culturally perspective)
- How we treat each other (Sociological perspective)



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## We are not Tilting at Windmills



### Misconception #4:

#### • “Good Teaching” Will Solve the Problem

- How we teach matters more than what we teach
- Embrace a wide instructional tolerance
- Use assessment to inform instruction

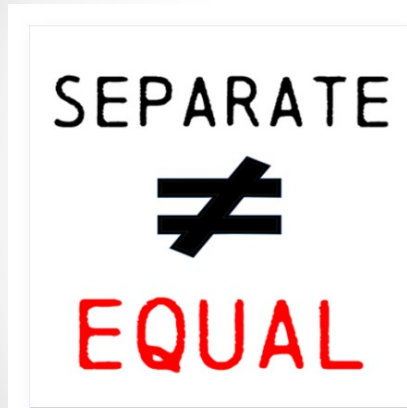


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## We are not Tilting at Windmills



### Misconception #5:

- **Separate but Equal is Acceptable in Catholic Social Teaching**
  - We are called to a higher standard
  - We are called to say All are Welcome
  - We are called to the margins



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## Reflection Question

- How does understanding these misconceptions reshape your thinking about inclusion?
- What other potential misconceptions have you heard about education for students with disabilities or other students on the margins at your school?
- How could you find out if these other misconceptions are true?



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# Contact Information

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