

48<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Education



## WORKSHOP 3

# Inclusion in the UAE

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وزارة التربية والتعليم  
Ministry of Education



# INCLUSION IN THE UAE

48<sup>th</sup> session of the International Conference on Education

*“Children that learn together, learn to live together.”*

The Federal Law No. 29 of year 2006 on the Rights of People with Special Needs guarantees:

“...the person with special needs access to equal opportunities of education within all educational institutions...”



*Special education students must have a feeling of belonging among other students, teachers, and support staff.*

Article  
13 of  
the same  
law  
states:

“The Ministry of Education ... shall be committed... to secure the complete participation of students having special needs.”





Something wonderful is happening to children throughout the United Arab Emirates:

They are learning that all people are entitled to equal opportunities.



They are learning to understand, respect, and appreciate people with physical or intellectual differences.



Their lessons are coming not from textbooks, but from real-life, everyday experiences.



Inclusive education means that all students in a school, regardless of their strengths or weaknesses in any area,

become part of the school community



Children who happen to have such differences are learning that the world belongs to them too, and that opportunities for learning,

playing, making friends, and becoming full participants in society are within their reach.

# Specialized Department



The Ministry of Education established the new Special Education Department that encourages inclusion in the UAE public schools.

## UAE Efforts in Inclusion of Special Needs Students:

Training teachers in specialized courses for the purpose of inclusion of special needs students into regular schools and classrooms.



## UAE Efforts in Inclusion of Special Needs Students:



Establishing an Assessment Team in each zone to evaluate and follow up on the needs of special education students.

## UAE Efforts in Inclusion of Special Needs Students:



Preparing administrative and teaching staff, parents, and the schools to accept students with special needs.

# UAE Efforts in Inclusion of Special Needs Students:

Preparing and Implementing Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs) to meet the needs of each student.

A document titled "Key Elements of an IEP" (Individualized Educational Plan) with three columns labeled "K", "E", and "Y". The document contains text and bullet points, likely detailing the components and requirements of an IEP. The text is small and difficult to read, but the structure is clear with three main columns and a larger section at the bottom.

## UAE Efforts in Inclusion of Special Needs Students:



Cooperating with other agencies to provide the related services for students with special needs

# Equal Opportunities in the UAE



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The new law requires a “Special Needs Educational Committee,” specialized in setting up special education programs to be implemented in early childhood, regular or special classes.

# Currently Under Development

Writing and implementing new Special Education Standards to ensure non-discrimination, physical accessibility, economic accessibility, acceptability, and adaptability in education.



In addition:

## Links & Transitions



The Ministry of Education provides a continuum of educational services from early childhood (KG.

programs) to primary education, secondary education, and adult education.

# Future Plans in the UAE

## *Engaging Students*

Plans are being developed at the Ministry and Council levels to reform high schools leading to higher levels of student engagement and lower levels of student drop outs. Alternative pathways including vocational/technical education will be provided.



# Future Plans in the UAE

## *Engaging Students*

Differentiation training has been taking place in schools to assist teachers in meeting the needs of all students, from low to high achievers. This training will expand to all schools in the UAE.

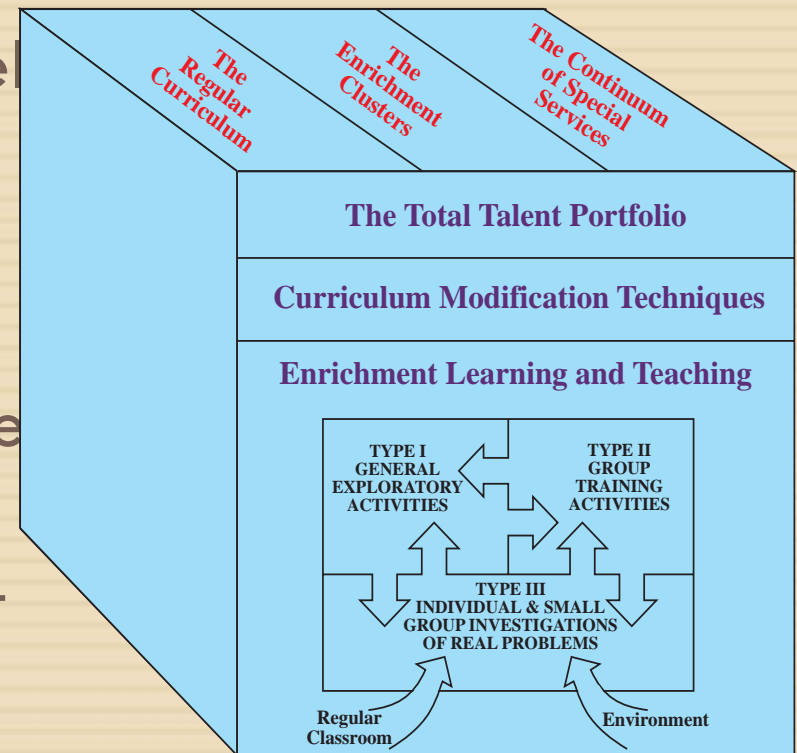
*“The success of education depends on adapting teaching to individual differences among learners.”*

*-Yuezheng, in 4th century B. C. Chinese treatise, Xue Ji*

# Future Plans in the UAE

## Gifted & Talented Education

The Schoolwide Enrichment Model is being adopted to increase all students' interest in learning and to challenge high achieving students. This will help to engage students, thus lowering the drop-out rate and raising achievement levels in the schools.



(Renzulli & Reis, 1985, 1997)

# Future Plans in the UAE

Professional training for teachers and supervisors to address inclusion.



Dr. Hanif with the participants in a group photo

# Future Plans in the UAE

Awareness

Training

Awareness

Training

Awareness

Training

Awareness

Training

Awareness for the schools and community.



Ad campaign



# Future Plans in the UAE

## Assistive Technology- Implementation/Training



# Future Plans in the UAE

Programs such as Special Olympics



# Quotes to Ponder



“We know that the world is an inclusive community. It’s very important for children to have the opportunity to learn and grow within communities that represent the kind of world they’ll live in when they finish high school.”

(Mara Sapon-Shevin).



# In closing...

Inclusion can benefit everyone: children with and without disabilities, their teachers, and society as a whole.



In choosing the model for inclusion, “we must also decide that diversity is valuable. It is not just a reality to be tolerated, accepted, and accommodated...it is a reality to be valued”(York, et.al. 1993).