



Guidelines for Inclusive Education for Deaf and Blind Students in Italy and Hungary

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This international self-representation and empowerment group was an essential step towards fostering inclusivity and raising awareness about the challenges faced by pupils with disabilities. By actively engaging families and creating impactful resources, we aim to influence educational practices and community attitudes positively.

During the periodic meetings, from October 2024 to March 2025, parents of children and adolescents with disabilities, divided into two groups based on nationality, discussed the different inclusion experiences their children face, particularly in the school environment.

The topics discussed included:

- ✔ Inclusion and discrimination in schools
- ✔ Autonomy and independent life for persons with disabilities
- ✔ Relationships

The sharing of these experiences led to a handbook with some recommendations and best practices to be shared with other parents and school staff (principals, teachers, educators) with the aim of increasing and improving the inclusive capacity of educational contexts.



1. Awareness and Acceptance in Schools

- ✔ Implement awareness campaigns to educate students and teachers on the challenges faced by deaf and blind students.
- ✔ Organize peer-group involvement activities to foster understanding and inclusion.
- ✔ Use videos and real-life testimonies to promote acceptance.

2. Strengthening Peer Interaction

- ✔ Encourage visually impaired and deaf students to interact with both their peers with similar experiences and with non-disabled students.
- ✔ Create mentorship programs where older students with disabilities support younger ones.
- ✔ Facilitate international exchanges or online meetings with students from other countries facing similar challenges.

particip

participation

inclusion

inclusion

3. Parental and Family Support

- ✔ Schools should provide opportunities for parents to connect and share experiences through support groups and workshops.
- ✔ Organize family-inclusive programs where parents and students can learn together about assistive technologies and accessibility strategies.
- ✔ Conduct needs assessment surveys to understand families' expectations and challenges.

4. Inclusive Program Design

- ✔ Plan inclusive activities in different categories:
 - **Peer interaction:** Activities where students can collaborate and learn from each other.
 - **Family engagement:** Events where families of deaf and blind students can exchange knowledge.
 - **Cross-national collaboration:** International initiatives to share best practices.
- ✔ Ensure accessible materials (Braille, large print, sign language interpretation, audio descriptions).

5. Accessible Learning Environments

- ✔ Provide assistive technologies such as screen readers, Braille displays, and FM systems for hearing-impaired students.
- ✔ Train teachers in inclusive teaching methods, including tactile learning strategies and sign language.
- ✔ Ensure physical accessibility (ramps, tactile paths, visual alarms for deaf students).

6. Program Monitoring and Evaluation

- ✔ Regularly assess the effectiveness of inclusive programs through feedback from students, parents, and educators.
- ✔ Use structured templates for planning and tracking progress.
- ✔ Adapt and improve initiatives based on insights from the school community.

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