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National Down Syndrome Congress

THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
OF PARENTS & PROFESSIONALS

EQUALITY OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

NDSC has developed these principles which align with the Obama-Biden “Plan to Empower Americans with Disabilities.” If properly implemented, these principles enable students with Down syndrome to have access to a meaningful curriculum in an inclusive setting that will advance them towards a meaningful productive life and role in society.

IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN WITH DOWN SYNDROME

Promote inclusive, state of the art educational programs for children with disabilities from birth through exit from I.D.E.A. services

Promote further placement of students with Down syndrome in inclusive educational settings consistent with the percentage of individuals with disabilities in the general population.

Promote access and opportunities to ensure that parents have high quality information about state of the art educational practices

Promote laws and regulations that make access to due process procedures meaningful.

Ensure that students participate in the same curriculum as students without disabilities and measure progress with appropriate and objective measures.

Promote strategies that improve the school environment for all children through school-wide positive behavior approaches.

Promote policies that ban use of restraint, seclusion and aversive practices



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EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DOWN SYNDROME TO LIVE AND WORK IN THEIR COMMUNITY WITH THE NECESSARY SUPPORT SERVICES.

NDSC has adopted these principles of self-determination, consumer and family empowerment for individuals with Down syndrome with the goal of offering all individuals with Down syndrome opportunities for community living and meaningful employment with the appropriate support services.

Promote person-centered planning through partnerships among the individual, family members, friends, professionals and other involved in the individual's life

Allow people with disabilities and families the option of controlling and directing the funding and resources allocated on their behalf for employment and community living *through self-determination budgets, with appropriate fiscal intermediary supports.*

Promote laws that provide for adequate public funding of community services.

Support legislation that improves the working conditions for support workers.

Encourage policies that provide incentives to work and remove disincentives (potential loss of benefits) that enable individuals to work and save without losing benefits from publicly financed programs.

Promote policies that give parents opportunities to do long term planning for their children.