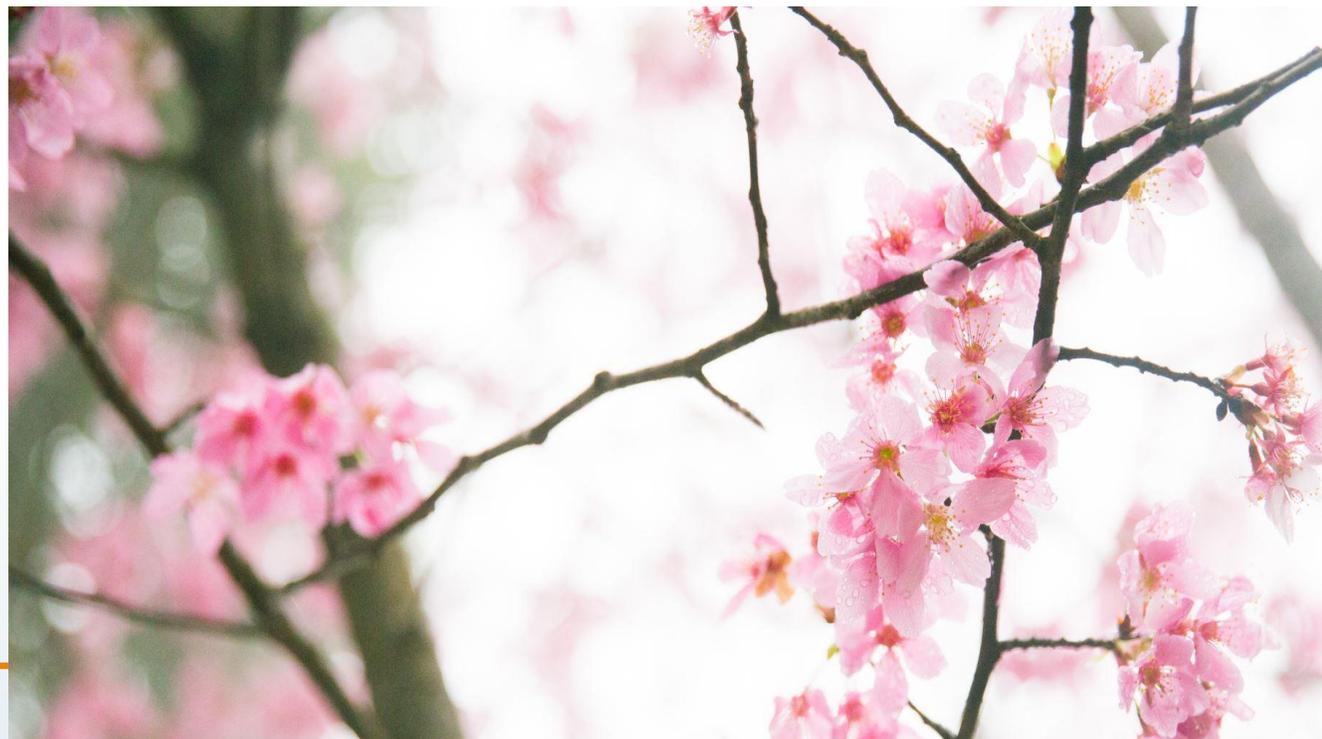


# INCLUSION OF LEARNERS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE UNITED STATES: AN OVERVIEW

LAURA CHEZAN

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*Workshop Exploratoriu: Echitate, diversitate, incluziune, e-  
migrare: inovație în politicile cu / pentru grupurile  
vulnerabile și produse alternative de diseminare a cercetării*



## Smart Diaspora 2023

[www.diaspora-stiintifica.ro](http://www.diaspora-stiintifica.ro)

10 - 13 Aprilie 2023,  
Timișoara

Eveniment aflat sub înaltul patronaj  
al Președintelui României



# SUCCESS STORIES



CAROLINA  
LIFE  
4-year  
postsecondary  
program

Lives independently  
Works at a grocery store and  
volunteers at a local park  
Has a cat

Lives at home with parents  
Auditions for musicals and plays piano  
Volunteers at a local kindergarten

Lives with a roommate  
Works at a local store  
Joined a sewing club

# INCLUSION, COLLABORATION, AND ADVOCACY

Practice based on the principle of normalization (Nirje, 1969)



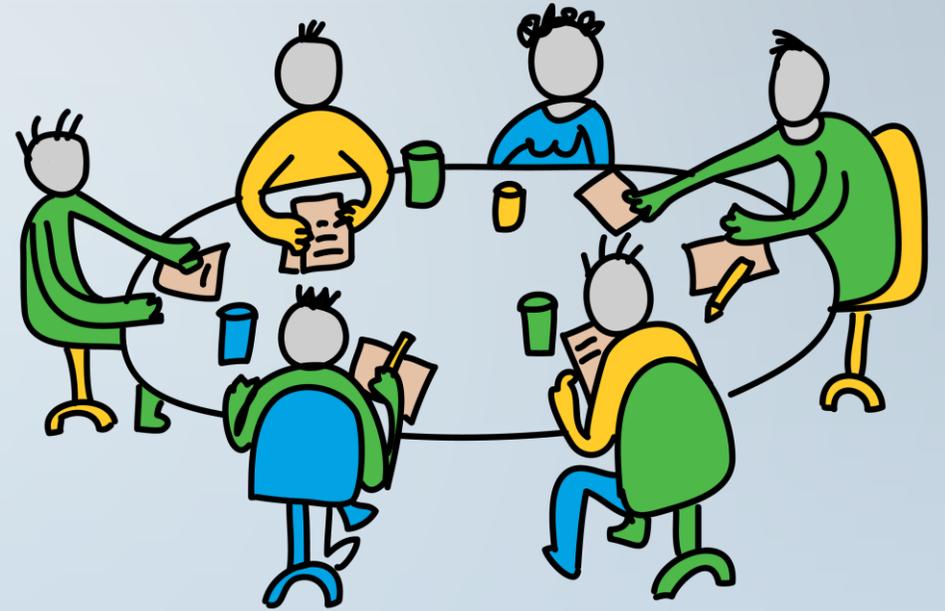
Equality



Human Rights



Quality of Life



# WHY INCLUSION?

Parent advocacy efforts

Federal mandates

Individuals with Disabilities Education  
Improvement Act (IDEIA, 2004)

Benefits for students with disabilities

Benefits for students without disabilities

# GOAL OF INCLUSION



Past

*Inclusion = location*



Present

*Inclusion = effective instruction*

# TYPES OF INCLUSION

Full inclusion (i.e., 80% or more of school day in general education classes)

Partial inclusion:

Between 40-79% of school day in the regular education classes (i.e., pull out)

Less than 40% of school day in the regular education classes (i.e., self-contained)

Other educational settings:

Separate schools

Hospitals and Residential settings

# COMPONENTS OF INCLUSION

Academic



Social

Physical

# STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING INCLUSION

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Environmental considerations

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Person-centered planning

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Ecological inventory

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Self-determination

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Positive behavior support

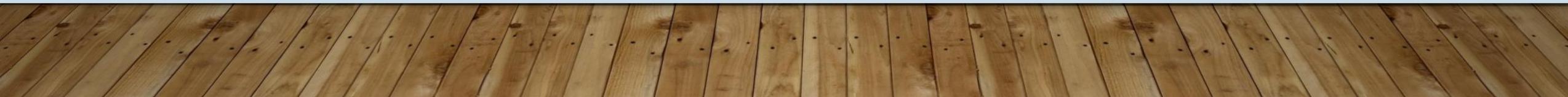
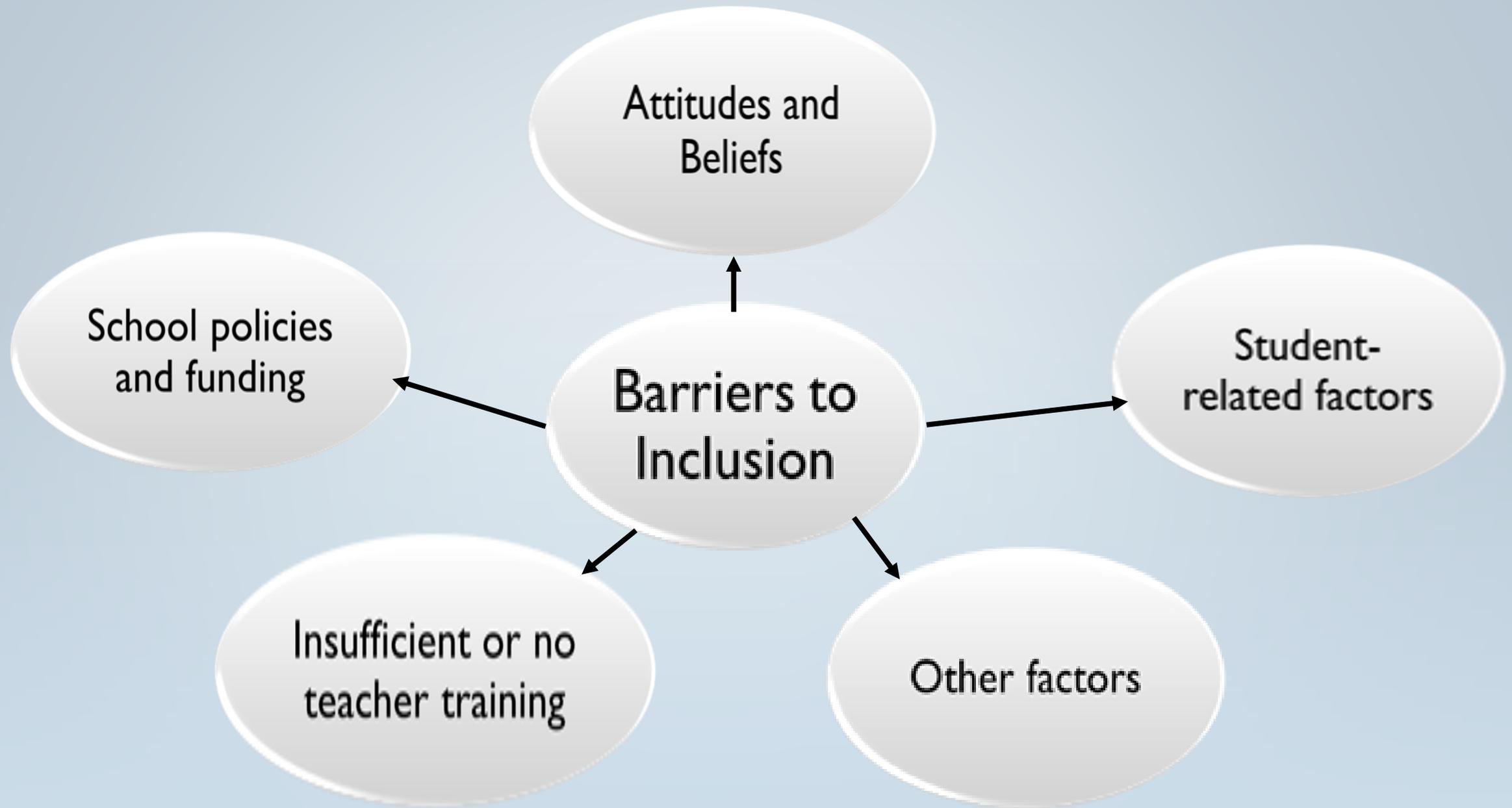
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Evidence-based practices

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Peer-mediated interventions





# CURRENT STATUS OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION & FUTURE DIRECTIONS

## Current Status

- All students with disabilities receive a free, appropriate public education
- Most spend a significant portion of the school day in regular classrooms

## Future Directions

- Skills taught in inclusive settings
- Participation in activities
- Nondiscriminatory practices
- Staff training and supports

# WHAT CAN WE DO TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF YOUNG ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES WHO ATTEND POSTSECONDARY PROGRAMS?



# QUESTIONS

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# Thank You!

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