



NFHS SPEECH/DEBATE/THEATRE & MUSIC CONFERENCE “FROM THE SEATS TO THE STAGE”

National Federation of State
High School Associations



Take Part. Get Set For Life.™

Lindsey Atkinson, Coordinator of Sports
Sandy Searcy, Director of Sports
National Federation of State High School Associations



NFHS INCLUSION STAFF

- Team was created in 2013
- NFHS Staff - Bob Gardner, Becky Oakes, Lindsey Atkinson, Sandy Searcy
- Inclusion Task Force





AGENDA TOPICS

- Athletics vs. Performing Arts
- What is disability inclusion?
- Types of inclusion
- Benefits of Inclusion in the Performing Arts
- Goals and Objectives
- The Game Plan
- Resources





ATHLETICS VS. PERFORMING ARTS

- Similarities
 - Education based
 - Competition (internal and external)
 - Instilling values
 - Building character
 - Fun

- Differences
 - Recruitment is a must
 - More opportunities





WHAT IS DISABILITY INCLUSION?

- Including students with impairments in everyday activities and encouraging them to have roles similar to their peers who do not have an impairment
- Educator's Role:
 - Creating a culture of inclusion
 - Providing opportunity
 - Encouraging participation
 - Addressing policies and practices



TYPES OF INCLUSION

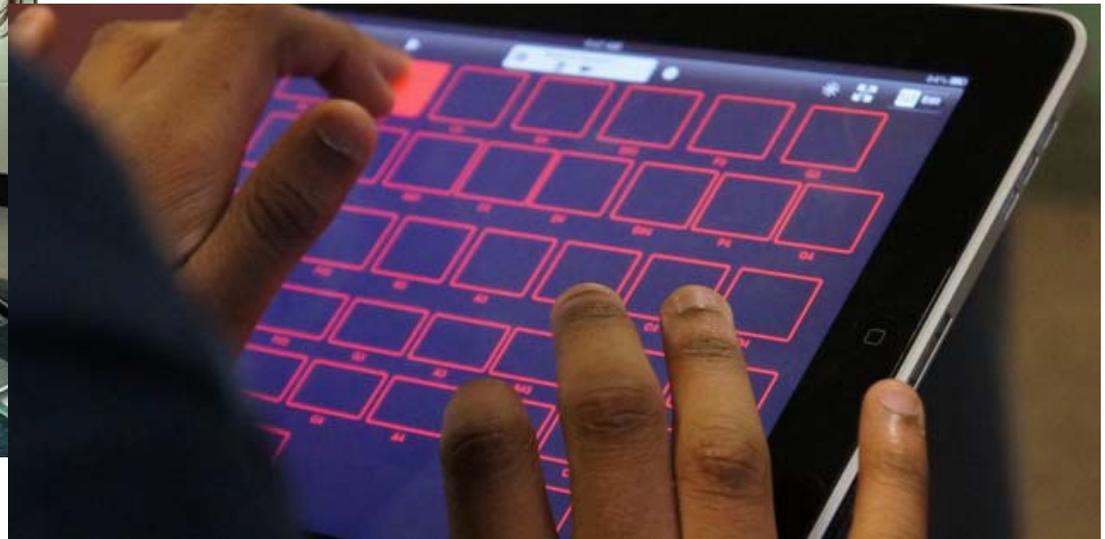
- **Integration** – Inclusion of students with disabilities into existing traditional activities.
- **Adapted** – Addition of a program offering specifically for students with a physical impairment
- **Unified** – Addition of a program offering for students with intellectual impairments partnered with students with no impairment



ADAPTIVE ACTIVITIES



- Adaptive activities
 - Modifying items, procedures, or systems to enable a person with a disability to use them to the maximum extent possible (reasonable accommodations)



ATHLETIC ACCOMMODATIONS

- Accommodations to compete alongside able-bodied students:
 - Tapping (swimming)
 - Guide runners/dogs
 - Light starter
 - Different starting position (in the water)
 - Clapping (timing jumps)
- Impairment events within a meet:
 - Wheelchair races
 - Seated throwing





FINE ARTS ACCOMMODATIONS

- Accommodations to participate alongside able-bodied students:
 - Facility accessibility
 - Hearing impairments
 - Visual impairments
 - Physical impairments



UNIFIED SPORTS



- Unified Sports program
 - Addition of sport program offerings for students with intellectual disabilities partnered with students with no disabilities on same team
 - Partnership with Special Olympics



UNIFIED ACTIVITIES



- Unified programs
 - Addition of fine arts program offerings for students with intellectual disabilities partnered with students with no disabilities
 - Unified Theater
 - Roundabout Playback Troupe
 - United Sound
 - Music for All, Inc.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2hW9AFP87k>





THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- *"I believe it's good character and integrity, and that's what Unified Theater teaches us. Along with working close together and embracing all our individuality, we learn how to be inclusive and good citizens, which makes us pull off these shirts so well." – Sara*
- *"I have learned that we are all just people wanting to belong and be appreciated." -Maddie C.*
- *"Coming to United Sound could completely change the direction of a bad day for me. I think that is powerful." - Abby W.*





THE PARENT EXPERIENCE

- *"United Sound has provided a new and powerful way for our daughter to communicate and given her more confidence when she does." -Bill and Sam Love*
- *"My daughters are learning to teach! They are learning about life, compassion, and how to be a neighbor and friend. I am grateful for the involvement that my girls have had. It has made a huge impact!" - Carl Bloomfield*
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwBUSrcy4P8>





THE EDUCATOR EXPERIENCE

- *“United Sound is the opportunity for these kids to be high school students. It’s the opportunity for them to belong and really reach a potential that no one even thought of as an option before.” -Mike Hall, Band Director, Tempe High School*
- *"Your program and these students have enriched our lives so much, and I think we've enriched theirs too. What an incredible thing this is!" -Soo Han, Orchestra Director, Carmel High School*
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7OmjXCYdz8>





WHY INCLUSION IN PERFORMING ARTS?

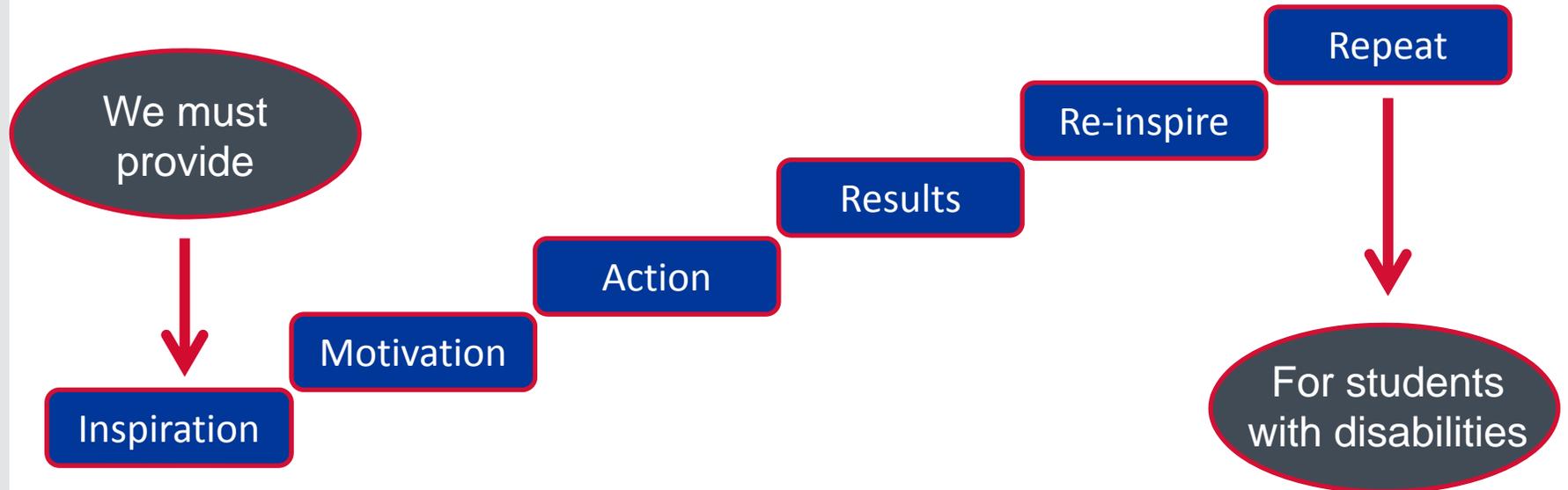
- Benefits:
 - Encourages physical activity and interaction with peers
 - Can improve both gross and fine motor skills
 - Improves communication skills
 - Increases self-esteem
 - Builds character
 - Empathy
 - Understanding
 - Teamwork
 - Compassion
 - Integrity
 - Leadership
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CenfB8m1hiA>



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

MAKING THE MOVE FROM THE SEATS TO THE STAGE

The Game Plan





THE GAME PLAN BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

- **Attitudinal Barrier** - Focus on what a person can do rather than what he/she can't do
 - **Action Plan** – Develop in your school
 - Look for ways to include rather than exclude
 - Look for the yes vs. the easy no
 - Create an inclusive environment
 - Make all feel welcome
- **Physical Barrier** - Physical obstructions to participation should be eliminated
 - **Action Plan** – Minimize barriers in your school
 - Universal design of facilities
 - Have your students spend a day identifying where there may be barriers and how to become more accessible
 - Creative solutions to expand diverse opportunities to participate
 - Make all feel welcome



THE GAME PLAN

BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES & FUTURE

PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

■ Action Plan

- Develop strategies to foster a school culture of “I can and I will”
- Engage the students
- Explain the opportunities
- Show a clear pathway of success
- Participation
- Part of the school program and community
- Engage other partners in your community
- Fun
- Gaining knowledge of the sport/activity
- Further opportunities





NFHS - HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD

- Molly Parker, 2015 Section 1 Recipient
 - Deaf at the age of 2 ½
 - Cast member of two musical dramas and three plays
 - Member of Art Club
 - Camper at Camp Mark 7 Deaf Film Camp
 - Produced several short films
 - Collaborated with campers to create music video set to Pharrell William's song "Happy"

"Happy" Music Video



NFHS INCLUSION

- Education-based high school programs enrich **each** student's educational experience. Participation helps prepare our students for their next level of life.

Inclusion

“Making the Move from the Seats to the Stage”



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AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

- What types or provisions and accommodations has your state association provided for performing arts?



"It's a room full of happiness, love, and acceptance that is simply contagious."

<http://www.4thwallkids.com/>





INCLUSION STAFF

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REFERENCES

- Unified Theater: <http://unifiedtheater.org/>
- United Sound: <http://www.unitedsound.org/>
- Music For All: <https://www.musicforall.org/who-we-are/who-we-are>
- Roundabout Playback Group:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2hW9AFP87k>

