

Letter to Parents [Template]

Dear Parents,

Your child will be participating in the *PRIDE Curriculum (Promoting Respect and Inclusion through Disability Studies Education)* developed by the Vermont Statewide Independent Living Council (Vermont SILC). This curriculum is designed to teach students in kindergarten through 12th grade about the civil rights movement and cultural identity of the Disability Community.

Through the curriculum, students will learn about the accommodations and/or assistive technology used by people with various types of disabilities. In addition, students will explore their personal connection to the Disability Community. Activities encourage students to enter into dialogue with their families and friends about people they know who have disabilities. By helping your child put this subject into personal perspective, students will have real life connections with the information presented in the curriculum. Students will also gain an awareness of the influence of language and media in shaping our perceptions of people with disabilities.

In order to understand the Disability Community as a distinct segment of the population, students will explore the history of discrimination experienced by this group and the critical people, places and events that are central to understanding the Disability Civil Rights Movement. Again, bringing the learning experience to a personal level, students will be encouraged to develop the skills necessary to recognize and prevent future discrimination. Through problem solving exercises, students will have the opportunity to practice some ways they might deal with potentially discriminatory situations and make positive changes in their community.

As part of the curriculum, we will be inviting guest speakers to share information on a variety of disability-related topics including but not limited to the following:

- Adaptive Driving – individuals who design, sell or use vehicle hand controls and other types of adaptive equipment
- Adaptive Recreation - community programs and/or individuals with disabilities who participate in specific sports events
- Assistive Technology – people who design, sell or use adaptive software and hardware, daily living aids, etc.
- Independent Living and Legal Rights – people who can speak from personal and/or professional experiences about the civil rights laws and advocacy organizations relating to people with disabilities

If you, a family member, friend, or colleague would like to volunteer as a guest speaker on one or more disability-related topics, please complete the attached Volunteer Form and return it to _____ by _____. If you have any questions about the curriculum, please contact me at _____.

Sincerely,

Letter to Parents [Template]

Volunteer Application

Name: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____

Business / Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____ ()W ()H ()Mobile ()TTY

Alt. Phone: (_____) _____ - _____ ()W ()H ()Mobile ()TTY

Fax: (_____) _____ - _____

Email: _____

Best Time/Method to Contact Me: _____

I am interested in volunteering as a guest speaker on the following disability-related topic(s):

Please return this form to _____ at _____.