



## Recommended Strategies for Inclusion at Campus/District Events

Eanes ISD is fortunate to have many campus and district activities in which our students and their families can participate. Many of these events are hosted by school-sponsored organizations such as PTO/Booster Clubs, special event committees, or other parent groups. In addition, other community organizations may also host or sponsor an event.

We have a variety of students in Eanes with a multitude of strengths and needs. As a community, Eanes ISD prides itself on being inclusive and proactive to allow every student to feel engaged, empowered and safe in any of these activities.

In an effort to help provide information and guidance for groups hosting events in Eanes ISD, the Eanes ISD Special Education Department and the Special Education Parent Working Group developed the following recommended strategies for inclusion of all students. While each item may not be relevant to every event, many are universal strategies that can be implemented to create a positive experience for all.

- Communicate to families early (at least one month) about the event.
  - Provide clear descriptions and expectations.
  - Encourage people to direct questions or needs to a specific contact person.
  - Reach out to campus staff to collaborate and problem solve.
- Designate key people for check in at the beginning, middle and end of an event. Ensure these people are easy to recognize and locate.
- Differentiate activities based on noise level.
- Differentiate activities based on skill level.
- Provide support for students when they are required to purchase tickets or food. This may include assisting them with the financial transaction or providing them an alternate way of keeping up with tickets such using as wrist band instead.
- Design and clearly label a quiet space where students can take a break from the event.
  - Provide fidgets, squisheys, simple art supplies and/or headphones in the break area.
  - Check-in on students to see when they are ready to rejoin the event.
- Plan food selections taking food sensitivities and food allergies into consideration (see Eanes ISD Allergy Action Plan).  
<http://www.eanesisd.net/uploaded/District/Departments/Health/Food Allergy Admin Regulation Final 3.24.15.pdf>
- Ensure there is physical access to all activities including parking. Provide maps if appropriate.
- Make adjustments for students who may have trouble waiting in long lines or have specific temperature sensitivities by allowing them a special place in line or having them wait in a separate area until their turn.
- Consider assigning peer volunteer(s) for students who need extra help as a more natural support to take advantage of existing peer relationships.

- Event sponsors/school staff should watch for students who become withdrawn or stressed during an event. Seek support from adults or peers who are familiar to the student and try to be as discrete as possible not drawing attention to the student.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommended strategies for inclusion of all students. There are many staff members and parents who can be wonderful resources regarding inclusion when planning and hosting an event. Please reach out to your campus, and they can help connect you. Our events are for the community, and all students should feel welcome to participate to the level they are able.