

DISABILITY SCHOOL CHAMPION PROGRAM

In order to eradicate stigma and bullying related to disability, both disabled and non-disabled students alike deserve to gain a positive understanding of disability that is led by disabled people themselves.

Disability Education & Advocacy Network's (DEAN) School Champion Program is a powerful opportunity to lead schools and classrooms in implementing disability in lessons, events, & conversations with both students and faculty.

During the 2021/2022 school year, we piloted the Champion program with 14 teachers in the Philadelphia School District. The Champion program pairs teachers with mentors who are disabled educators with years of experience developing inclusive practice in schools and colleges.

The results have been outstanding with our lessons which have been designed and approved by disabled people being taught throughout the school. The feedback from all students has been equally positive. Teachers really appreciate the resources we identify and the research we do on particular issues. Bullying is decreasing and respect is increasing as knowledge conquers ignorance.

The School Champion Program is now available to you.

Contact us to learn more, enroll or sponsor this vital program!

info@DEANetwork.org • 267-608-0913



"Before working with the Champion program, I struggled with incorporating disability acceptance into our daily lessons and routines. Now I am able to better my knowledge and understanding about Disability Equality and spread my understanding to every teacher and student within my school"

Rachael - elementary school teacher

"Working with the Champion program has given me a new perspective as an art educator in an alternative school setting. I have started to view my lesson plans through a new lens and learned how to be more inclusive."

Allison - middle school teacher

"The most rewarding part of this program has been the students realizing that they can make a change in their community and even extend past that. This program is so helpful in allowing young people to see the changes they want made in the world and start making them in their classroom, school and community."

Emily - elementary school teacher

"The Champion program is an amazing resource for educators looking for some guidance in how to bring ideas, materials, and experiences into the classroom to educate their students on disability - past, present, and future. This mentorship program has helped me grow as an ally and become a better teacher to all students."

Anna - high school teacher

School Champions:

- Get permission from principal to participate in program
- Meet with one of DEAN's mentors 9 times per year (once a month during the school year)
- Participate in two 2 hour Professional Development (PD) days per year.

DEAN mentors have a long and wide experience of inclusion and the principles of the disability rights movement. This includes disability perspectives on:

- The Social Model of disability
- Developing inclusive practice
- Disability language and etiquette
- Disability Pride
- Disability Arts
- Representation

They also will have access to a huge range of lesson plans, resources and a network of disabled people who are experts in all aspects of inclusion as well as guest speakers.

Interested schools, teachers, partners and investors should visit our website or email us to learn about opportunities for next year and beyond.

www.DEANetwork.org