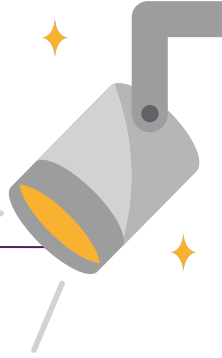


CENTRE NEWS



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As I write this message, I cannot believe it is already October. We are running late this year with our introductory newsletter and, quite honestly, have not really caught up since spring. A major reason for this is that we have not been hearing enough about the exciting work you are all doing so that we can share it with the broader community.

Last Friday, I learned of a recent announcement from the Ontario Minister of Education that included the very misguided question: Does inclusion work? It pains me that we are still asking this question. I believe it is more important than ever to make our work visible. We know inclusion works. At the same time, we also know that what is happening in many, though certainly not all, schools right now is not inclusion. Rather, it is the abandonment of students and educators. We know better, and our message needs to be heard.

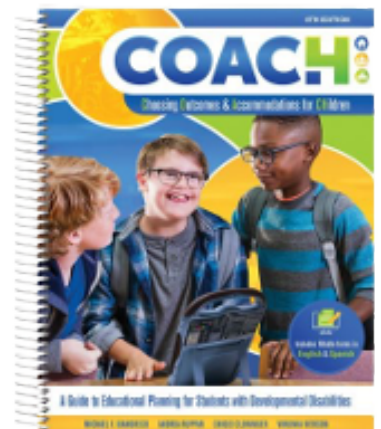
In this newsletter, you will find highlights from CSSE, including our meeting the day before the conference, when Dr. Jennifer Katz explored why we are not seeing more successful implementation of inclusive practices. In addition, Dr. Michael Giangreco and his colleagues have released the newest version of COACH and have asked me to help spread the word. For those who may be unfamiliar with COACH, I have included a brief introduction to this valuable resource.

I am looking forward to our Zoom meeting on October 23 as an opportunity to reconnect and catch up. In the meantime, please continue using the link at the end of the newsletter to share Centre activities, research updates, and other opportunities that may be of interest to our community. If you have ideas for future newsletter features or contributions, we would love to hear from you.

COACH - CHOOSING OUTCOMES AND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CHILDREN

By Michael Giangreco, Andrea Ruppert, Chigee Cloninger & Virginia Iverson

The COACH educational planning framework has been in use since 1985 and has been widely adopted and refined over time. The commercially available version, published by Attainment Company, is now in its fourth edition. Each revision reflects evolving understandings of effective and evidence-based educational practice.





COACH is a collaborative, family-centered planning process designed to help educational teams identify meaningful goals, accommodations, and supports for students with disabilities in inclusion-oriented settings. This latest edition is particularly valuable because it reflects a more global perspective and uses less U.S.-centric language and terminology.

Because individualized educational planning remains at the core of educational programming for students with developmental disabilities, COACH continues to be an important resource for educators and families. It provides the practical, hands-on guidance that schools are seeking as they work to create meaningful engagement and participation for all students. A detailed review of the new edition will be available in the coming year in Exceptionality Education International.

The print version is \$59.00 US (plus shipping). The digital version is available for \$29.00 US; both versions include an access code for the digital forms on the online Attainment Hub. Click [here](#) for more information.

EXCEPTIONALITY EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL - DIAMOND OPEN ACCESS

We are delighted to share that, thanks to a three-year Aid to Scholarly Journals grant, Exceptionality Education International (EEI) is transitioning to a Diamond Open Access model. Beginning January 1, 2027, all EEI content will be freely available through the Érudit platform, with no subscription costs for readers and no article processing fees for authors. We are excited about the increased accessibility and reach this move will provide. Érudit [EEI Journal link here](#).

As you consider outlets for your future work, we encourage you to keep EEI in mind. We welcome submissions that contribute to advancing research, policy, and practice. [Submit articles here](#).

EEI provides a forum for research and dialogue on topics relevant to the education of people with exceptionalities and how barriers to the full participation of all people in education can be reduced and removed. People with exceptionalities are those from groups who have been traditionally marginalized in education as the result of ability, culture, ethnicity, gender, identity, language, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status. EEI publishes original, peer-reviewed articles and reviews on topics including but not limited to pedagogy, school and system organization and management, curricula, policy, inclusion, marginalization, international and national trends, classroom practice, adult education, educational innovations and initiatives, and teacher education.



CSSE PRECONFERENCE

Dr. Jennifer Katz presented her "Second-Generation Inclusive Education" framework, grounded in the belief that equitable, inclusive public education is a human right, not a discretionary accommodation. She traced how beliefs about disability, competence, and behaviour shift along a continuum from Exclusion to First and Second Order Change: disability moves from being seen as an individual deficit to something shaped by environment; students are assumed capable with diverse learning profiles; and challenging behaviour is treated as a response to environment or trauma rather than something to punish. Practice shifts accordingly, moving from segregation and behaviour plans toward UDL, student voice, and trauma-informed approaches.

Underpinning the session was a pointed question raised in the pre-reading: if the pandemic proved that entrenched systems could change rapidly when survival demands it, why hasn't that same urgency been applied to dismantling the ableism still embedded in "universal" schooling?

Katz closed with four research pathways moving this work forward: defining core IE values, translating them into policy, a 5-step implementation pathway, and a coaching model to support teachers through the shift.

AWARDS CIRCLE

This year, the 2025 Robbie Case Memorial Award address was given by Dr. Steve Sider. Steve had an inspiring talk about his career, his wonderful accolades, and moments of difficulty or perceived "failures." As always, we appreciate Steve's sense of humor, his vulnerability, and his critical thinking about our role as researchers. The winner of the 2026 Carol Crealock Memorial Award was Shelly Russell-Mayhew from the University of Calgary. Pascale Gendron from Western University was the recipient of the G.M. Dunlop Award for her Master's thesis work. Finally, the Exceptionality Education International book award was presented to Drs. Jacqui Specht, Steve Sider, and Kimberly Maich for their book *A Research Agenda for Inclusive Education*. Congratulations to all our colleagues on these well-deserved awards!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Coaching to Inclusion

October 14–15, 2026, London, Ontario

Coaching to Inclusion is a one-day conference in London, Ontario for education staff for a full day of professional learning focused on inclusive systems in education. This year, we are spotlighting secondary education.

As part of our 2026 conference we are thrilled to welcome Dr. Shelley Moore. In addition to the conference day on October 15th, we are also hosting a Night with Shelley on October 14th at Western University.



As many of our members are aware, there will be a....

National Round Table on Inclusive Education in Canada

October 13–15, 2026, Fredericton, New Brunswick

This event is not a conference, but a Round Table—designed to bring participants together as equal contributors in structured dialogue to share perspectives, test ideas, and shape practical solutions. The outcomes will be consolidated into a publication that integrates expert papers, insights from the dialogue, and agreed-upon strategies into a National Action Plan for inclusive education.

Considering the recent announcement in Ontario and other concerns across the country, I look forward to hearing the outcomes. As I am part of the host committee for the Coaching to Inclusion event listed above, I cannot attend.

For information, contact:

Dr. Gordon L. Porter, Executive Director, IEC gordonlporter@icloud.com

Tanya Whitney, Project Lead, Inclusion NB Tanyawhitney@inclusionnb.ca



Check out our Linktree for all links related to the Centre!

[Click HERE](#)

