



- Nothing About Us, Without Us!
- What We Do
  - Public policy advocacy
  - Education
  - Community-building
  - Leadership training

# Why Autism Acceptance?

---

# Disability

(Positive)

A history, a culture, a movement

A part of who we are

A group that we belong to

---

# Neurodiversity

All types of brains exist and are great!

- This doesn't mean your brain might not sometimes do stuff you don't like
- All brains do things we like and things we don't.
- If your brain is built the way the world expects, you are **neurotypical**
- If your brain is not, such as if you have:
  - An intellectual or developmental disability
  - A mental health disability
- Then you are **neurodivergent**

Why does it matter?

---

All means all.

---

You might not know who's autistic.

---

# Examples of supporting autistic students

---



# Look for unmet needs, and how to help.

- Access to communication, AAC
- Understimulation
  - If they're bored, they might need additional stimuli or challenges
  - Aids like fidgets, rocking seats, etc.
- Overstimulation
  - Too much noise, too much light
  - Aids like sunglasses, gels to cover fluorescents, noise cancellers or earplugs
- Lack of resources at home
  - Food insecurity
  - Housing instability
  - Lack of understanding/access to disability resources

Presume  
competence.

What do disabled people have to say?

---

**"ADHD and autism doesn't always look like what you think. Students with physical or other disabilities can have autism and/or ADHD. Students who do well academically can have autism and/or ADHD. Be aware of your own biases as an educator. Just because a student gets good grades doesn't mean they're not struggling."**

Cara Liebowitz

**“In my own research, I have found that autistic people with diagnoses of intellectual disability can be highly successful learning out in their communities all day, every day, as long as the curriculum is designed around sensory needs and interests of the students.”**

"PhD Candidate in Learning Sciences at University of Illinois

Marrok Sedgewick

Questions?

---