

The Cost of Segregation vs. The Cost of Inclusion*

Segregated Models

Included Models

Education

\$25,000–\$55,000 per student per year for separate special education classrooms and/or private schooling or separate buildings

\$12,000–\$15,000, with higher academic outcomes for disabled students in classes with their non-disabled peers; expectation of graduation

Employment

Lifelong segregation and ongoing dependence in Sheltered Work environments. Average annual cost per individual: \$19,388

Integrated, Specialized Employment playing to each individual's strength, and building skills and experience to increase independence. Average annual cost per individual: \$6,619

Community Living & Transition

Inflated federal funds dedicated to crowded facilities and to teaching and learning that does little to prepare adults for independence; average annual cost for an institution: \$104,025–\$375,000**

Many Transition activities considered “no cost”; average cost of living with family or living in the community: \$21,789–\$107,453***

OUTCOMES

Federal funds supporting lifelong segregation and dependence, lowered expectations, and dangerous environments

The ability to see return from investment – responsible, independent adults contributing as members of the community

* Based on a TASH exhibit

**Lakin et al. (2010)

***HCBS per service recipient extracted from RISP Website

(Variations in costs are influenced by characteristics of people, staff, types of services & supports, types of residential options, and other factors.)

