

The Cost of Segregation vs. The Cost of Inclusion*

“Segregated” Model

“Included” Model

Education

Separate special education classrooms, or private schooling, or segregated in separate buildings:
\$25,000 – \$55,000 per student per year

Higher academic outcomes for disabled students AND their non-disabled peers; an expectation of graduation:
\$12,000 – \$15,000 per student per year

Employment

Lifelong segregation and ongoing dependence in sheltered work environments:
\$19,388 average annual cost per individual

Integrated, specialized employment, based on individual strengths, building skills and experience, and increasing independence:
\$6,619 average annual cost per individual

Transition & Community Living

Inflated government funds dedicated to crowded, segregated training facilities not conducive to increased independence; cost per year for an individual to be housed in an institution: \$104,025 – \$375,000

Many transition activities considered a “zero cost”; cost per year for an individual living with biological family, foster family or friends and receiving supports and services in the community: \$21,789 – \$107,453

OUTCOMES

Federal and state funds furthering lifelong segregation and dependence, lowered expectations, and dangerous environments

Positive returns on this investment – seen in responsible, independent adults contributing as members of our communities

QUESTION

But more important than cost, which choice offers better quality of life?

*Cost Sources:

TASH exhibit, *The Cost of Segregation vs. The Cost of Inclusion* – for education and employment
NCD’s *Deinstitutionalization Toolkit, 2010* – for institutionalization and community living