

The Cost of Segregation vs. The Cost of Inclusion*

“Segregated” Model

“Included” Model

Education

Students in 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, often unchallenged by the tasks, in sheltered work environments:
\$19,388 average annual cost per individual

Integrated, specialized employment, based on individual strengths that build skills and experience and increase 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 “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

Measurably better quality of life for all, and responsible, independent adults contributing as members of our communities

QUESTION

More important than cost, which model offers a better quality of life?

*Sources:

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



Equity • Opportunity • Inclusion for People with Disabilities