**Why Private Schools Have An Advantage Over Public Schools**

The public school approach to inclusion, and to providing for children with special needs, is based on a "system" approach. The system is a vast infrastructure that requires funding to maintain itself. The services the system provides are based on federal funding. Without supporting the system first, there are no services. The child with special needs becomes the vehicle by which funding in achieved. Using a medical model the focus is on the child's deficiencies and diagnosis as a means to capture funding. The system approach focuses on deficiencies and not capabilities, with the goal of getting funding and fixing the student before they enter society.

Private schools have the flexibility of not having funding dependent on a diagnosis. In this context the child comes first. People don't belong in "systems", they belong to themselves, families and communities. All children have "capacities" and less so deficiencies. Instead of servicing someone in a system, the focus shifts to how to support student in their peer environment and to live good lives in the community. Systems aren't all bad, but tend to be wired for their own self interest at the expense of the person. So, instead of a person fitting onto a system, private schools have the opportunity to ensure their resources adapt to the needs of a person. Typically a private school is able to better leverage existing administrative and teaching resources and implement much better child focused and efficient inclusion.