

Including Special Needs Students in Education – An Overview of Major Trends

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OECD

- **United Nations Charters**
- **Millennium Goals**
- **Education For All**

All stress rights to education

A View From OECD

Why include children with special needs in education?

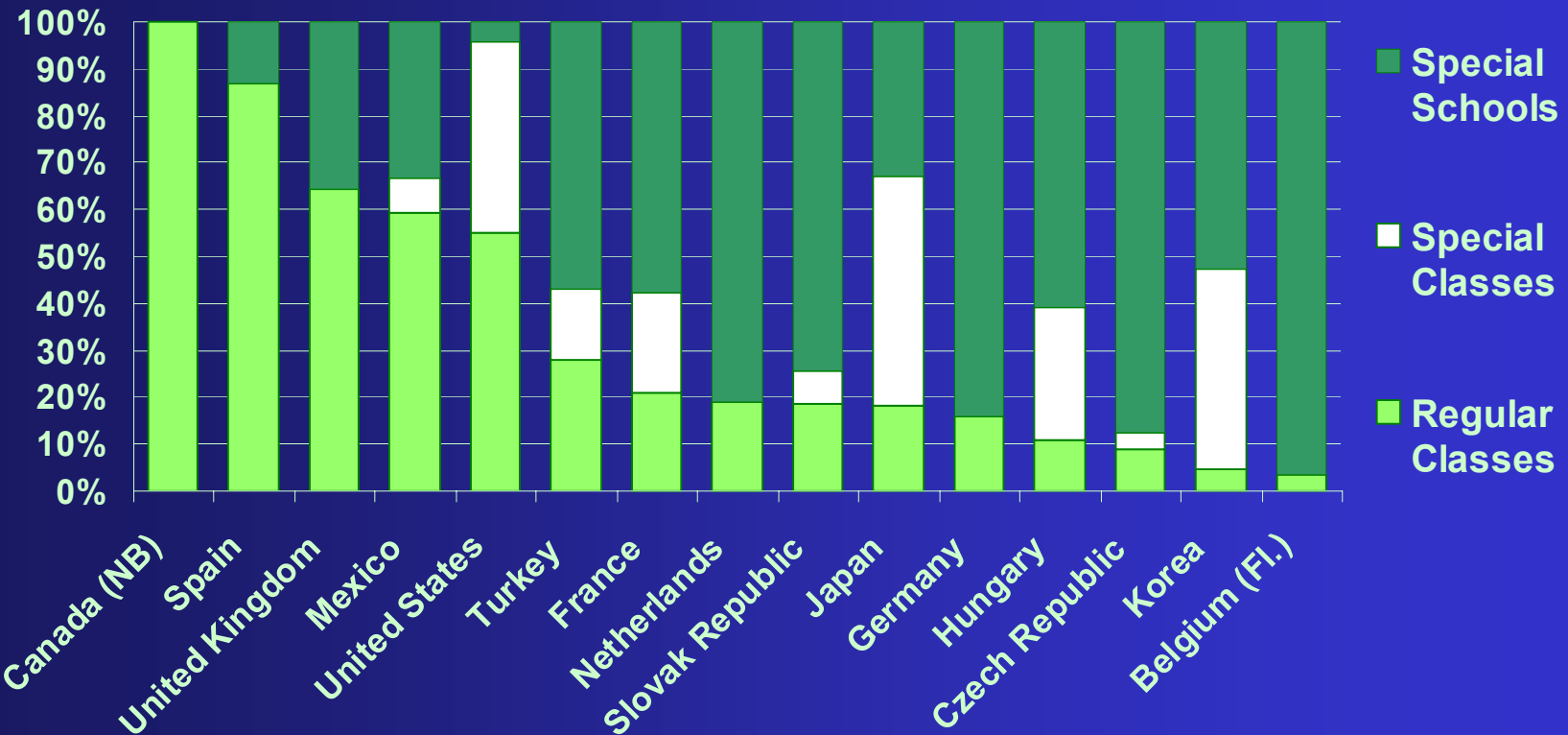
- **Demographic trends, ratios of workers to retired citizens so need as many people as possible contributing**
- **Increasing tax revenues and decreasing benefit costs**
- **School reforms are needed to reduce rate of failure and educate more students to be able to function in the knowledge economy**
- **Tackling child and family poverty**

A View From OECD

Why include children with disabilities in mainstream schools?

- **Reduced exclusion**
- **Decreases prejudice**
- **More effective use of resources**
- **More efficient uses of resources**

OECD countries have almost all children in education and have strong legal and policy frameworks. But a mixed picture on inclusion on regular schools



Distribution of students with difficulties receiving additional resources over the period of compulsory education by location

Inclusive schools are different.

A number of aspects:

- **Planning for diversity**
- **Professional development**
- **External support services**
- **Parental and community involvement**
- **Curriculum development**
- **Classroom organisation**

Outcomes

PISA 2003 includes:

- 311 students with functional disability, *e.g.* physical handicap
- 1 815 students with intellectual disability

How did they do?

	Non SEN	Functional Disability	Intellectual Disability
Maths	483.08	459.76	390.72
Reading	480.88	452.10	376.27
Problem Solving	482.84	458.32	399.93

How did they do?

	Non SEN	Functional Disability	Intellectual Disability
Maths (levels 3-6)	51.1	39.1	15.1
Reading(levels 3-5)	52.4	44.1	15.0
Problem Solving (levels 2&3)	45.2	38.6	11.4

Interpretation

- **Many students with disabilities who may be thought unable to benefit do rather well.**
- **Many students with disabilities who are often excluded from education because of their disability are doing better than many who attend school and are not discriminated against.**

Messages

- **Need legal and policy frameworks.**
- **Students with disabilities can be effectively included.**
- **Evidence from PISA suggests that they can perform rather well.**

Messages

- **And therefore they can contribute to the economy and society and not be a financial burden.**
- **But for inclusion in mainstream schools to work, they have to be differently organised.**