

# **“WE DON’T DO INCLUSION HERE....,” AND OTHER BLUNDERS BY EDUCATIONAL LEADERS**

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## **Abstract**

School leaders face a series of challenges every day. Parents, teachers, and students place demands on educational leaders to make sound, quick decisions. Pressures on leaders increase when they attempt to address the complex issues of students with disabilities and those placed at risk. While many educational leaders thrive on making decisions under pressure, untimely and poorly considered decisions can cost leaders headaches, legal problems, or even their jobs. This module examines real-life “blunders” that educational leaders have made concerning issues of inclusion, parental contact, and student behavior. The module uses a case study approach to unpack the fallout of hasty decisions and provides leaders with practical tools to prevent (or undo) “blunders.”

Central to the module are underlying assumptions and contemporary examples that promote positive values and beliefs toward inclusion, integration, and social justice. The module is organized around four “blunders” entitled “You’re child is too disabled for regular education classes,” “If you would just discipline your child at home life would be easier at school,” “I don’t care if your child has a disability, rules are rules,” and “Those supports are not going to be provided because we simply can’t afford it.” Case studies with questions, reading assignments, and PowerPoint file including instructor’s notes, reflective questions, and references are included for each “blunder.”