



INCLUSION MANUAL

Lincolnway Special Recreation
Association

PARENT GUIDE

MEMBER DISTRICTS

Crete, Frankfort, Frankfort Square,
Manhattan, Mokena, New Lenox,
Peotone & Wilmington

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INTRODUCTION TO LWSRA

Established in 1976

About Us

Since 1976, the Lincolnway Special Recreation Association (LWSRA) has provided recreation services for individuals with disabilities through a cooperative agreement with its eight member park districts: Crete, Frankfort, Frankfort Square, Manhattan, Mokena, New Lenox, Peotone and Wilmington Park Districts. Participants enjoy active, healthy and more independent lifestyles through a variety of recreational and social opportunities.

Mission

LWSRA's mission is to provide recreation and leisure services for individuals with physical or intellectual disabilities while promoting greater disability awareness in the community.

Vision

A community without limits for individuals with disabilities.



WHAT IS INCLUSION?

Member Districts welcome participation of individuals with disabilities in all recreational programs. The districts work cooperatively with LWSRA to facilitate successful participation for individuals who request any modification. Inclusion services give participants the needed support in a typical park district setting.



THE INCLUSION PROCESS

1

One of two situations can occur for support to be requested:

- A parent/guardian registers the participant for a member district program and requests a modification.
- A member district staff member could identify a participant who may need modifications that is already participating in a program. If the staff member has identified a possible need they must: provide documentation on incidents/situations and the park district must have a conversation with parent/guardian about needing support prior to inquiring about services.

2

Member agency reaches out to the participants family and fills out the inclusion questionnaire. The questionnaire goes directly to LWSRA. From this point LWSRA will schedule an intake with the participant and the parent/guardian. If the participant is already registered and participating in the program, LWSRA will work with the member district to do an observation.

3

Each situation is assessed individually to determine the necessary support for the individual to function within the guidelines of the program. After the intake or observation, a team decision will be made to determine the level of modification.

TYPES OF MODIFICATIONS

- Resources given to the member district (Examples: schedules, equipment, Etc.)
- Programming structure or adaptation recommendations
- 1:1 program support



PROGRAM PRE-REQUISITES

Participants must be able to do the following:

- Independently bathroom
- Need to have a current IEP or documented disability-related need
- Function at a 1:3 ratio
- Listen and abide by the member district rules

Participants must also be able to refrain from the following:

- Wandering/elopement concerns
- Physically hurting themselves or others
- using disrespectful and inappropriate language and behavior



FAQ

Participants eligible to receive LWSRA Inclusion Services:

Must have a current IEP or documented disability-related needs.

Participants who would NOT qualify include:

- A patron who displays ongoing negative behaviors in programs but has no diagnosis
- A patron who speaks English as a second language and does not have a disability
- A patron who is going through adverse childhood experience but not diagnosed

What is considered a reasonable modification?

Reasonable Modifications: Any change that permits an individual with a disability to meet the eligibility requirements for a member districts program/activity.

Unreasonable Modifications: Requiring 2 staff members for 1 participant or a licensed nurse would be required for the participant to be at program/activity.

Can a parent or guardian demand the Park District or LWSRA to provide a 1:1 inclusion staff?

No. While a 1:1 is the "preferential" modification, if a lesser modification enables the participant to meet the requirement of the program then an aide will not be placed.



FAQ

How long in advance does the inclusion support request need to be in?

At least 2 weeks. Finding an aide is not always easy and LWSRA might have to go out to hire if there is not one available.

What happens if the aide is sick?

If the aide is out sick, LWSRA will do their best to fill the opening. This may not always be possible; if this happens, the park district will be contacted and they will determine the next steps regarding participation and the missed day(s).

Does my child have to follow the member district rules?

Yes. They will be part of the member district. All policies will be the same if an aide is present or not.

What happens if my child receives disciplinary measures from a member district?

Each member district has a different behavior policy. If your child is on their last warning, a meeting with LWSRA, the member district, and the parents/guardians will take place. If behavior continues, the placement for the child will be changed.



FAQ

Does my child need to be toilet trained to attend park district programs?

If a program does not provide toileting assistance for the participants, then toileting assistance would not be provided to a participant with a disability. The child however cannot be excluded from the program if the parent agrees to come in and do the service or hire a personal attendant to do so.

Does LWSRA diagnose disabilities?

No. LWSRA can conduct an observation of the participant at the program to help determine modifications.

What qualifications do LWSRA Inclusion Staff have?

LWSRA hires and trains inclusion staff that are 15 years of age and older. LWSRA provides ongoing staff training in disability specific knowledge, risk management, behavior management and activity adaptation.

How do I receive Inclusion Services?

When registering for a Member District program, select the box indicating ADA accommodations are needed. The Member District will then begin the process of contacting LWSRA and completing the necessary modification forms.



IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

EMMA KREITZ
INCLUSION@LWSRA.ORG
TEXT OR CALL 815-320-3511

