

# PEER-TO-PEER:

## A successful behavioral intervention for students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

P2P (LINKS) is a program designed to increase academic and social skills for students with disabilities. This is achieved by inviting peers without disabilities to learn about and support their peers with disabilities.

### 7 REASONS TO IMPLEMENT P2P PROGRAMS IN K-12 SCHOOLS

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#### MODELS APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

- P2P programs allow students with disabilities to observe their LINKs appropriate behavior in a school setting. This sets a good example for the student.

#### INCREASES SOCIAL SKILLS

- Studies show that P2P programs increase social initiation from peers toward students with disabilities as well as from the students with disabilities toward their peers.

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#### INCREASES PEER UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE

- [We're friends] because we can do what we are best at doing together.” (Simpson et al., 2016)

#### INCREASES TIME SPENT IN GEN-ED CLASSROOMS

- When students with disabilities have a LINK to go to classes with them as a support system, they are able to be more involved in classes with their peers.

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#### INCREASES ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

- Students are able to focus more time on learning and have a support system in their LINK to help them if they struggle. The modeling of academic behavior also serves to increase performance.

#### PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES TO PRACTICE SKILLS

- By being paired with a LINK in a classroom setting, students with disabilities are able to practice socializing and interacting with a peer in a non threatening and safe environment.

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#### POSITIVELY IMPACTS SCHOOL CULTURE

- "He's my friend so if he was playing alone I would say don't be lonely . . . do what you like doing with me.” (Simpson et al., 2016)