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BROOKLINE



Understanding our Differences

March 15, 2022

History



- Non-profit organization focused on increasing information, understanding and inclusion of people with disabilities. Created in 1978 by a group of parents of children with disabilities.
- Understanding our Differences is an interactive disability awareness curriculum that teaches children to *see the whole person and better understand the disability*. The Understanding Our Differences program educates schools and communities and fosters respect and inclusion for people of all abilities.
- The curriculum covers Blindness and Low Vision, Deafness and Hard of Hearing, Autism, Physical Disabilities, Intellectual Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, and Chronic Medical Conditions including Allergic Conditions, Asthma, Diabetes, and Epilepsy.

The Program

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Implementation of unit topics of the UOD curriculum

- Presentations
- Access for teachers to unit introductory and follow-up assignments for student completion before/after unit delivery
- Materials
- Speakers with a disability per unit presentation

History within PSB

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- Was a partner school for 30+ years
- Curriculum implementation including design of own unit
- Costs
 - On staff coordinator
 - Curriculum materials
 - Reimbursements
- Targeted programming at 4th grade level in all K-8 schools
- 2-3 topic presentations per school year, ~ 1 hour per topic presentation
- Program was put on pause in June 2020, for the 2020-21 school year, due to budget deficit and unknowns of the COVID-19 pandemic



Thank you!