

September 2011

The Arc Maryland, Inc., in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education, the Maryland Department of Disabilities, the Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education and the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, is pleased to announce its “Together We’re Better” Inclusive Education Awareness Campaign and Poster Contest.

This year we will offer the “Together We’re Better” Poster Contest for elementary school students K-5 grade.

The Arc Maryland has compiled links and information to assist your staff in preparing lesson plans and activities for students to celebrate the diverse abilities of all students.

The “Together We’re Better” Awareness Campaign will kick-off in October to celebrate Maryland’s Disability History and Awareness Month. The contest and awareness activities will enhance school-wide awareness of inclusive practices for students with disabilities while engaging all students in activities that create a sense of caring and community. Students will have the opportunity to collaborate in a meaningful way with one another while reflecting on what they have learned from the campaign.

Details of the “Together We’re Better” Poster Contest are enclosed, and we invite you to visit [www.marylandpublicschools.org](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org) or [www.thearcmd.org](http://www.thearcmd.org) to find an electronic version of this year’s “Diversity Celebration Toolkit”. For more information on the contest, please contact Shaneka Harris, Advocacy Events Coordinator, The Arc Maryland, at 410-571-9320 or [sharris@thearcmd.org](mailto:sharris@thearcmd.org) .

Sincerely,

Bernard J. Sadusky  
State Superintendent of Schools

Catherine Raggio  
Secretary, Department of Disabilities