Topic Areas

Developed in collaboration with nationally recognized researchers and education experts, IRIS online open-educational resources (OERs) address instructional and behavioral issues of critical importance to today's educators:

- Accommodations
- Assessment
- Assistive Technology
- Behavior & Classroom Management
- Collaboration
- Content Instruction
- Differentiated Instruction
- Disability
- Diversity
- Early Intervention/Early Childhood
- Juvenile Corrections
- Learning Strategies
- Mathematics
- MTSS/RTI
- Reading, Literacy, & Language Arts
- Related Services
- School Improvement/Leadership
- Transition

Professional Development

The IRIS Center offers four distinct professional development options:

- **Free Open-access Website** – IRIS creates a host of materials about evidence-based instructional and behavioral practices. These resources are all freely available on our Website.
- **PD Certificates for Teachers** – This option allows users to earn certificates toward their PD hours. Practitioners can work through a wide variety of our modules and—after taking a pre-test and post-test—receive verification of completion.

- **School & District Platform** – School and district administrators can assign modules to individual teachers or to groups, send reminder emails, track teacher progress, and export results for accountability purposes.
- **IRIS Micro-credentials** – These highly focused units provide opportunities for educators to learn and demonstrate discrete skills. Upon successful completion, users earn a digital badge.

Visit Us! iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu • iriscenter.com
Contact Us! iris@vanderbilt.edu
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IDEAs that Work
U.S. Office of Special Education Programs

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IRIS CENTER™

iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu
or iriscenter.com

Serving: Higher Education Faculty • PD Providers • Practicing Educators

Supporting the preparation of effective educators to improve outcomes for all students, especially struggling learners and those with disabilities

About IRIS

Supported by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and located at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College, the IRIS Center creates high-quality, online open educational resources (OERs) about evidence-based instructional and behavioral practices to help improve the education outcomes of all students, especially struggling learners and those with disabilities. IRIS resources:

- Improve pre-service and PD training and improve opportunities for independent learning
- Enhance the awareness, knowledge, and skills of current and future educators and service providers
- Align with professional standards and high-leverage practices

STAR Legacy Modules

Based on a proven theory of adult learning and structured around the award-winning *STAR Legacy* instructional cycle, IRIS Modules offer in-depth looks at topics relevant to educators through text, graphics, interactive activities, interviews with experts and educators, and video demonstrations. User-friendly, approachable, and highly engaging, our modules are made up of five components:

Challenge: A case-based video scenario that introduces the topic and invites inquiry

Initial Thoughts: Questions that activate learners' prior knowledge about the topic

Perspectives & Resources: Scaffolded, engaging, and accessible content developed using instructional design principles

Wrap Up: A summary of the module content

Assessment: An opportunity for learners to evaluate what they have learned or need to study further

The IRIS Center's Topics and Resources

Case Studies

Ideal for use in personnel preparation courses and PD activities, IRIS Case Studies ask learners to approach realistic instructional scenarios through increasing levels of complexity.

Activities

Perfect as independent assignments or as a way to promote discussion, activities are divided into a number of categories, including "Case Based," "Group," "Media," and "Independent."

Information Briefs

Gathered from a number of reliable sources, these short summaries on key educational topics and practices are included on the IRIS Website as supplemental materials.

Interviews

Key researchers offer their perspectives on a variety of important issues in the field of special education, including diversity, evidence-based practices, and response to intervention.

Video Vignettes

This collection of videos about individuals with disabilities, their families, advocates, educators, and service providers also contains depictions of the application of evidence-based practices in educational settings.

Evidence-Based Practice Summaries Tool

Search this tool for information about instructional and behavioral interventions, including the level of effectiveness and age groups for which those strategies and interventions are designed. Links to further information are also available for those who wish to learn more.

High-Leverage Practices (HLP) Tool

Developed in collaboration with CEEDAR, this tool identifies existing IRIS resources that contain information on HLPs, 22 essential special education techniques that all K–12 special education teachers should master for use across a variety of classroom circumstances. This tool allows users to sort results by:

- HLP topic areas (assessment, collaboration, instruction, social/emotional/behavioral)
- Degree of alignment (strongly, moderately, loosely)
- Content type (information, implementation)

Fundamental Skill Sheets (FSS)

Quick primers or reminders about discrete skills such as proximity control and behavior specific praise, fundamental skill sheets provide consistent features about each practice including:

- What Is It?
- What Do We Know About This Skill/Practice?
- Procedures
- Tips for Implementation
- Things To Keep in Mind
- Implementation Examples (including videos)
- Foundational References & Resources

For Faculty

The tools and materials in this section are designed to assist college faculty who wish to infuse information about evidence-based practices into their courses and field-based activities. Explore "For Faculty" to find:

- Wrap-Around Content Maps
- Sample Syllabi
- Curriculum Matrices
- Coursework Planning Forms
- Top Tips for Faculty
- Answer Keys

For PD Providers

IRIS has developed many tools and materials specifically to assist professional development providers who deliver training services to educational professionals working in school settings. Explore "For PD Providers" to find:

- Wrap-Around Content Maps
- Sample PD Activity Collection
- Planning Forms
- Top Tips for PD Providers
- Answer Keys