



Course Overview

This course prepares special education teachers to understand the relationship between higher standards and standards based IEPs. We take a unique approach to building teachers' skills and developing standards-based IEPs through an in depth examination of the rationale for standards based IEPs and the thought processes and steps involved in creating key components of standards-based IEPs. As a result, special educators have a strong foundational knowledge and well-developed skill set to support IEP teams, including families, to connect all the parts of a standards-based IEP.

Course outcomes include:

- Participants will understand the legal basis for providing students with disabilities access to grade level achievement standards.
- Participants will have clear understanding of the relationship between grade level achievement standards and standards-based IEPs
- Participants will be able to determine Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP) for use in developing appropriate IEP goals.
- Participants will be able to recognize and develop SMART goals.
- Participants will be able to use knowledge of PLAAFP and SMART goals to effectively write standards-based IEPs.

Teachers will develop a personal course portfolio that will include:

- A pre and post assessment of learner knowledge of standards-based IEPs
- A summary of state and district resources for current academic achievement standards
- PLAAFP reviews for three current students using Present Levels of Functional and Academic Performance (PLAAFP) Rubric and template
- Practice recognizing and developing SMART goals
- Completed standards-based IEP goals for three current students using course provided process.
- A reflection journal that includes how the course content applies to their teaching practices

Topics by Session:

- Session 1 explores the legal basis for participation of students with disabilities in higher standards
- Session 2 examines how higher standards influence the content of student IEPs.
- Session 3 addresses standards-based IEPs and why they are important.
- Session 4 leads participants through understanding and creating a meaningful foundation for standard-based IEP goals – the Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP).
- Session 5 guides participants through understanding the under-pinnings for and recognizing SMART, standards-based IEP goals.
- Session 6 takes participants through a step-by-step process for creating standards-based IEP goals.