Course Outline

Co-Teaching: Special Education Differentiation is intended to guide and enhance special education and general education teachers understanding of co-teaching as a special education service delivery in the grade level core classroom. The course offers clear and concise information, resources, and practical tools to consider when thinking about co-teaching models of instructional delivery, and differentiation of the core. The course is designed to support multiple grade and content areas teams within a K-12 local education agency.

Throughout this course, special education and general education teachers thinking about co-teaching prospects and those already involved in co-teaching will learn about the purpose, benefits, and components of effective co-teaching practices as well as strategies for lesson design and the development of strong co-teaching partnerships.

Participants are provided a comprehensive array of learning opportunities through reading articles on empirical research, watching videos and self-reflection on current pedagogical practices to enhance understanding, application, and essential elements of co-teaching. Participants are encouraged to actively discuss, share, and engage in online collaborative spaces and to explore the resources provided for further in-depth learning.

Session 1 – Rationale for Inclusive Practices

- Learn about the research and ideology behind inclusion
- Realize the rationale for inclusive practices in special education
- Understand the purpose of differentiation to address learner variability
- Gain knowledge of recent and emerging research that supports inclusive practices
- Analyze data from your state that identifies current learning gaps for students with disabilities
- Investigate how perceptions affect expectations of students with disabilities
- Recognize that learner variability can be addressed through inclusive special education practices

Session 2- Co-Teaching Practices

- Understand the benefits of Co-Teaching service delivery model for students and teachers as a means to address learner variability
- Learn about the changing roles and responsibilities of educators in co-taught classes
- Recognize the six co-teaching models and strategies that support each
- Discover the practical preparation steps to support co-teacher team development
- Gain knowledge of recent and emerging research that supports inclusive co-teaching
- View teachers using the six co-teaching models, identify strategies that support classroom practice for each
- Hear from general and special education teams about co-teaching benefits and challenges

- Reflect on current classroom practices in develop common agreements in order to prepare for effective co-teaching

Session 3 – Co-Instruction

- Understand the co-planning essentials for co-instructing & co-teaching approaches
- Learn tips and strategies, and apply tools and strategies to maximize your co-planning time
- Apply effective reflection processes to improve co-teaching practices
- Gain knowledge of the role of co-planning in the co-teaching process
- Identify strategies for developing and maximizing co-planning time
- Identify a variety of tools that support collaborative co-planning processes
- Hear how co-teaching teams strengthen their instruction through co-planning
- Identify processes to use reflection to refine your co-instruction practices

Session 4 – Putting It Together – Summary

- Review information or activities you completed in earlier sessions
- Reflect on practices, skills and strategies you have used in your classroom as part of this course
- Review the current status of you co-teaching relationship
- Identify some next steps to further develop your co-teaching partnership

Throughout the course, opportunities are provided for teachers to connect their learning across sessions and to explicitly consider the implications of that learning for classroom practice. Teachers will also be able to revisit their work and reflections by viewing their individual Course Portfolios.