



What Expertise Do We Bring to the Task?

The Access Center offers a wealth of knowledge and expertise so that participants receive the information and assistance they need, when they need it.

We offer an interdisciplinary, innovative, and research-based approach to problem solving, capitalizing on the diverse talents of our staff. Specifically, we

- ◆ combine expertise in both general and special education research and practice
- ◆ connect educational practitioners and researchers to identify and fill the gaps between research and practice
- ◆ provide web-based technical assistance and work face-to-face with different audiences
- ◆ help collect and use data in educational decision making

Who Are Our Partners?

The Access Center's ability to fulfill its mission is enhanced by its partnerships with nationally recognized organizations:

- ◆ CAST
- ◆ The Council of Chief State School Officers
- ◆ The Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center
- ◆ The Regional Resource Center Network

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Providing Technical Assistance to Improve Access and Outcomes for Students with Disabilities

What is the Access Center?

We are a national technical assistance (TA) center funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Our mission is to strengthen state and local capacity to help students with disabilities effectively learn in the general education curriculum.

We strive to

- ◆ synthesize and present information about effective practices and resources
- ◆ support the use of effective practices through tools, services, publications, and other resources
- ◆ facilitate strategic partnerships and community building
- ◆ use research and data for targeted change and continuous improvement

"The Access Center completed a needs assessment that analyzed and clearly documented those educational concerns most in need of technical assistance in Louisiana. The data gave voice to prioritization so that we could effectively plan for professional development." *Debra, Louisiana Department of Education*

How Can We Help You?

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) pose a major challenge: that students with disabilities be instructed in a standards-based general education curriculum to the greatest degree possible.

The Access Center helps states and districts meet that challenge, as they seek information on

- ◆ ensuring that instructional and learning goals are in place for students with disabilities
- ◆ implementing research-based practices
- ◆ acquiring research-based materials and media
- ◆ accommodating and supporting students to learn general education content and skills
- ◆ applying tools and procedures to assess and document whether students with disabilities are meeting high standards



"To understand how State programs impact students' access to the general education curriculum, the Access Center helped a State in our region develop a resource mapping tool to interview program staff. The State then implemented a systemic plan to address this important topic." *Wayne, Regional Resource Center Specialist*

What Strategies Do We Offer?

Our strategies are intended to increase state and district capacity. We provide

- ◆ direct assistance
- ◆ capacity and relationship building programs (information-sharing communities)
- ◆ web-based and customized resources such as information briefs and online discussions related to reading and accommodations

Specifically we can help states

- ◆ develop and conduct needs assessments
- ◆ identify and understand resources related to access
- ◆ design and implement professional development tools to enhance the use of effective strategies