

Special Education Update

East Central Indiana Special Services.....February 9, 2021

Happy Wintry Weather!

I am in hopes that you were able to attend at least a session or two from the Focus on Inclusion conference last week. If not, I will be sharing highlights from the conference over the next several weeks to encourage discussion on this topic. Please take some time to watch the video below. It is excellent! After you've watched the video, fill out the form below and I will send you PGP points. I look forward to hearing your thoughts after watching it!

Form: <https://forms.gle/zaeAxc9mtAT6zvYMA>

Action! Effective Practices in Transition - Dan Habib and Samuel Habib



REMINDER - SIGN UP FOR A VIRTUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER MEETING

We have several topics we would like to discuss with you face-to-face to make sure we are all on the same page and to answer any questions you may have! We have four sessions for you to choose from

during the week of February 22nd. Please register for ONE of these 30 minute virtual meetings at:
<https://forms.gle/wrLAX85YPfzSq8FC6>

Topics include:

1. IIEP Transition from Learning Connection to LINK
2. End of Year Plan for Case Conferences
3. Text to Speech Accommodations for State Testing
3. Secondary Transition - Preparation for Audit

FREE Training - Orton Gillingham Reading Approach

Klipsch Educators College at Marian University Indianapolis, is pleased to announce an educator professional development program called **VISTAS: Virtual Indiana School Teachers Assistance and Support**. It is a four-session seminar to assist teachers and educators, general and special education, in working with students who are struggling with reading development and comprehension. The sessions are focused on training teachers in the **Orton Gillingham Reading Approach**, writing development programs and MTSS, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support.

Features of the **VISTAS** program:

- **No cost** to participating teachers and educators
- **45 PGP points** are available to successful participants
- **VISTAS** is presented virtually through live-streaming
- **VISTAS** sessions will be held July 12-16, 9am-4pm
- **Materials are free** and sent to participants in advance

To enroll in **VISTAS**, please click on this link <https://forms.gle/JB64NEHMOVW4bbqtJA>.

If you have questions, please contact: Cindy Farren, cfarren@marian.edu

IF YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT AEM, YOU NEED TO ATTEND AT LEAST ONE OF THESE FREE TRAININGS!

[Creating Accessible Educational Materials from Scratch on February 10](#)

In an age of distance learning and digital materials, we must ensure that we are creating accessible resources for all students. Retrofitting accessibility into current content or old documents, slides, and worksheets can prove cumbersome and challenging. In this webinar, you will find an overview of the essential design & accessibility elements to include when creating new digital content for stakeholders, colleagues, students, and families

[Publishing Accessible Educational Materials for Your Students on February 17](#)

In an age of distance learning and digital materials, we must ensure that students have access to accessible materials. When teachers are sharing worksheets, resources, text, etc. these items must be accessible. This webinar will explore multiple ways for teachers to quickly convert pre-made materials that are inaccessible to an accessible format that can be shared with stakeholders, colleagues, students, and families.

[Create Accessible Materials: Distance Learning Edition on February 19](#)

In an age of distance learning, we must ensure that we are creating accessible digital resources for all students. Retrofitting accessibility into current content or old documents and worksheets can prove

elements to include when creating new digital content for students and families. There will be time for specific accessibility questions and resources shared for continuing your learning!

[Apps for Note-taking and Writing on February 23](#)

This fast-paced training will be all about apps that can be used for Note-taking and Writing. This training will demonstrate at least 10 apps, while offering a list of even more apps for later perusal, that can be used as strategies to help students who need options for note-taking and options for writing for literacy and math activities in the classroom.

[Let's AEM for It: Tools to Increase Access to Educational Materials on February 24](#)

From Apple to Chrome to Windows, join us to learn about downloads, extensions, and web-based tools to support student access to digital materials shared through learning management systems, email, Google Drive, etc. These tools will include access to text to speech and digital annotation.

FREE Paraprofessional Webinar Series

These sessions will be presented by experienced special education teachers and are specifically designed to provide practical, universal tips for supporting student learning.

[Register](#) to take advantage of these free virtual PD opportunities:

- **February 10** (10:30AM ET) & **February 11** (1:00PM ET): Building Independence (40 Min.)
- **February 17**: Lunch and Learn (12:30PM ET) - Confidentiality (30 Min.)
- **March 10** (10:30AM ET) & **March 11** (1:00PM ET): Supporting Student Communication (40 Min.)
- **April 7** (10:30AM ET) & **April 8** (1:00PM ET): Data Collection (40 Min.)

Contact Christine Krieger at ckrieger@pcgus.com with questions.

Life Skills Teachers - Professional Development Opportunity

[Project SUCCESS](#) will be providing teachers of students with significant disabilities a year-long opportunity to develop skills, enhance instructional strategies, and to build their leadership capacity. Teachers will have the unique opportunity to receive mentorship, as well as collaborate with a cohort of teachers across the state of Indiana to gain the knowledge, skills, and expertise to share lessons learned with new teachers, colleagues, and their local district. [Project SUCCESS](#) will provide all Cohort 2 Teacher Leaders with a combination of professional development opportunities, mentorship from Cohort 1 Teacher Leaders, and ongoing online collaboration using the Playbook Platform. In addition, all Cohort 2 Teacher Leaders will be completing a personalized Capstone Project to share with their local district leadership. Visit the [Teacher Leader Cohort 2 page](#) and **register by Friday, April 30, 2021**. For any questions, please contact Meredith Keedy-Merk at mkeedymerk@pcgus.com.

Secondary Transition Teachers - Mark Your Calendars!

This summer, Indiana will host a virtual, state-wide transition conference on July 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. The conference, Facing the Future Together, will feature nationally known keynote speakers and several topical breakout sessions each day. It's the first statewide transition conference that has been held in 10 years! Mark your calendars if you are interested and I'll share more info as it comes my way!

