

Where's the Research?

By Cherie Takemoto

The recent special education reauthorization (IDEA 2004) and the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) laws affirm this nation's commitment, in principle, to providing quality education to all students with disabilities. With this commitment come high expectations that students with disabilities will:

- Receive research-based education that is likely to lead to successful results
- Access and make progress in the general curriculum
- Participate in statewide assessments or alternate assessments
- Graduate with a regular diploma
- Leave school prepared for further education, employment and independent living

Along with high standards for students come a high level of responsibility and accountability for schools including:

- *Responsibility for appropriate assessment, identification and special education services and supports to every student with a disability*
- *Accountability for results in the same accountability system the State has in place for all students*
- *Use of research-based instructional practices to meet the unique developmental, academic and behavioral needs of students*
- *Provision of services in the least restrictive environment.*

All of this may be easy to say.... but how can it be done? This *Special Edition Part 3* offers places to go and things to see as parents and professionals search for ways to increase the odds that all children with disabilities can and will be successful in school.

The Alliance is the unified technical assistance system for Parent Centers. Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs) and Community Parent Resource Centers (CPRCs) in each state provide training and information to parents of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities and to professionals who work with children. This assistance helps parents to participate more effectively with professionals in meeting the educational needs of children and youth with disabilities. The Parent Centers work to improve educational outcomes for children and youth with all disabilities (emotional, learning, mental, and physical).

At this site, you can find one of the approximately 100 parent centers in the United States that is closest to you.

PEATC is Virginia's PTI.

The common experience with the families they serve results in uncommon commitment to improving outcomes and results for children with disabilities.

Also at this site you can find information about scientifically based research, the What Works Clearinghouse, a link to the US DoE Technical Assistance and Dissemination Network, information on IDEA and NCLB, and parent-friendly publications.



National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY) (<http://research.nichcy.org>)

NICHCY has launched a new Research Center, designed to connect viewers with the research evidence on a wide range of educational practices for children with disabilities.

While you're there, try out the brand-new Research-to-Practice database, where studies are placed in context and practical examples of the research in action are given. And please do come back for more, more, more, because this collection of summaries and analyses will be growing all the time. So that you won't miss a thing, you can even sign up to be notified when new research analyses are added!

And speaking of signing up...if you are looking for information about disabilities in children, special education, early intervention, or materials in Spanish, we invite you to also sign up for NICHCY's eNews service, which is designed to bring the information you need to your door (well, to your email box!). Sign up for eNews at: <http://www.nichcy.org/SurveyIntro1.html>

Or simply just visit NICHCY and help yourself to the resources on the Web site. All of NICHCY's publications are available there, free, and they offer a toll-free number (1.800.695.0285) and information specialists who can respond to your disability-related questions in English and in Spanish. We welcome your visit!



<http://www.taalliance.org/>

Special Edition Part 3

Project Forum Hits Hot Topics

<http://www.projectforum.org>

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE DIRECTORS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION'S (NASDSE) PROJECT FORUM HOPES TO FACILITATE IMPROVED SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES BY GATHERING AND SHARING INFORMATION THAT SUPPORTS CHANGES TO POLICY AND PRACTICE AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS.

The primary consumers for this information are state and local special education directors. However, Project Forum works to make their materials reader-friendly and useful to others. There are over 100 topics covered and new ones being developed on an ongoing basis. Some sample descriptions follow:

Standard Driven IEP's

Involving state content standards in the development of individualized education programs (IEPs) for students with disabilities—a practice most often referred to as **standards-based IEPs**—is a growing area of interest in special education. The Access Center, a federally funded technical assistance resource, (<http://www.k8accesscenter.org>) is dedicated to helping students with disabilities learn from the general

education curriculum and it has included the topic of standards-based IEPs in some documents, discussions and technical assistance activities.

Study of State and Local Implementation and Impact of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (SLIDEA)

is a national longitudinal survey commissioned by US DoE. Project Forum has published 3 summaries and the results of a survey that was sent to key personnel responsible for, or familiar with, special education issues in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and a nationally representative sample of 959 districts and 4,448 schools at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Topics include:

- Increasing the Use of Positive Approaches for Addressing Behavioral Issues of Students with IEPs
- Placing and Serving Children with Disabilities in the LRE
- Increasing Involvement of Parents of Children with Disabilities



The Regional Resource and Federal Centers (RRFC) Network is made up of the six Regional Resource Centers for Special Education (RRC) and the Federal Resource Center (FRC). The portal to a massive information base can be found at <http://www.rffcnetwork.org/>.

The six RRCs and the FRC are funded by the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to assist state education agencies in the systemic improvement of education programs, practices, and policies that affect children and youth with disabilities. These centers offer consultation, information services, technical assistance, training, and product development.

Visitors can find their State special education and early intervention agencies, Parent Training and Information Centers and National Dissemination Centers by going to the links on their home page. They can also find information briefs, papers, and handouts on a number of topics from very technical documents on State Performance Plans to easy-to-understand parent involvement information in multiple languages.

Using the Advance Search option, the term "RTI" (response to intervention) brought up 252 relevant links. Many of these links would take the reviewer to many other references.



National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC)

Do you want to know the best place to go to get reliable information about early intervention and preschool for infants, toddlers and young children with special needs? The National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC) website is full of information!

Information seekers can find policy clarification related Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and other official Department of Education information related to policies, resources, the law and regulations. They can also find relevant information for their own state's early childhood research. NECTAC serves as a Clearinghouse for Early Intervention and Early Childhood Education. There is also a link to the ERIC database of journal and non-journal education information. Finally, there is a special link for folks who seek information in Spanish related to early intervention and early childhood. Visit www.nectac.org

IDEA Parent Guide

<http://www.nclld.org/content/view/full/827/527/>

The National Council on Learning Disabilities (NCLD) has created a Parent Guide to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to help parents become informed and effective partners with school personnel to support their children's special learning and behavioral needs. The guide includes information about how the federal law generally works in most states, what the law requires to determine whether a child has a learning disability, what is new to IDEA since Congress last updated the law in 2004, what questions to ask and what information to prepare in order to be a full and active advocate. Resources offered on the NCLD website are for parents of a child with a learning disability (LD), or for parents who suspect their child may have a learning disability. The goal of the Parent Center is to empower parents with the information and tools they need to become informed and effective advocates for their children, both at home and at school.

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The Tool Kit on Teaching and Assessing Students with Disabilities

“Under No Child Left Behind, our nation has committed to providing every single child with a quality education. No Child Left Behind works in concert with the reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to ensure that schools are held accountable for the educational results of all their students. Given the appropriate supports and services, the expectation is that students with disabilities can achieve to high standards. Already, we are seeing results as the longstanding achievement gap finally begins to close.”

*Secretary Margaret Spellings
US Department of Education (US DoE)*

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) and the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) from the US DoE teamed up to develop the *Tool Kit for Instruction and Assessment of Students with Disabilities* to offer up-to-date guidance on assessing the achievement and progress of students with disabilities. According to the US DoE, the keys to educating children are instruction and assessment, relying on the most current and accurate information on how children learn, while also measuring student performance to ensure continuous growth and progress.

The Tool Kit includes technical assistance products chosen based on their relevance to improving teaching and assessment of all students with disabilities. The main topics are:

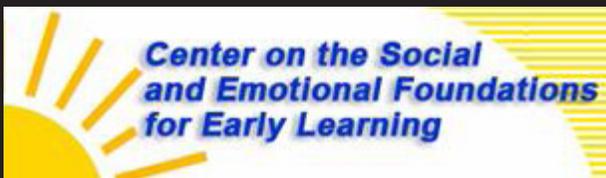
- Assessment for standards based assessment and accountability, alternate assessment, progress monitoring and response to intervention
- Instructional Practices in K-3 literacy, social interaction and communication and adolescent literacy
- Behavior related to school-wide behavioral interventions supported by research
- Accommodations describing how to select, administer and evaluate the use of accommodations
- Resources
- <http://www.osepideasthatwork.org/toolkit/>

The U.S. Department of Education’s “What Works Clearinghouse” recently announced the launch of an Evidence-Based Education Help Desk. The Help Desk will assist educators, policymakers, and others conduct research-based evaluations as well as find and implement evidence-based educational interventions. Moderators are available by phone and email to help users find the information and resources they need. The Help Desk’s Web site is: <http://whatworkshelpdesk.ed.gov>



Tool Kit Contents

- **Online Accommodations Bibliography**
- **Universal Design Applied to Large-Scale Assessments**
- **Progress Monitoring in an Inclusive Standards-Based Assessment and Accountability System**
- **Distribution of Proficient Scores that Exceed the 1% Cap: Four Possible Approaches**
- **Expectations for Students with Cognitive Disabilities: Is the Cup Half Empty or Half Full? Can the Cup Flow Over?**
- **Massachusetts: One State’s Approach to Setting Performance Levels on the Alternate Assessment**
- **Designing from the Ground Floor: Alternate Assessment on Alternate Achievement Standards**
- **Alternate Assessment: Teacher and State Experiences**
- **What is Scientifically-Based Research on Progress Monitoring?**
- **Responsiveness to Intervention in the SLD Determination Process**
- **Proven Ideas from Research for Parents: A Child Becomes a Reader – K-3**
- **Put Reading First: The Research Building Blocks for Teaching Children to Read – K-3**
- **Tangible Symbol Systems: Making the Right to Communicate a Reality for Individuals with Severe Disabilities**
- **Never Too Late: Approaches to Reading Instruction for Secondary Students with Disabilities**
- **School-wide Positive Behavior Support: Implementers’ Blueprint and Self-Assessment**
- **Accommodations Manual: How to Select, Administer, and Evaluate Use of Accommodations for Instruction and Assessment of Students with Disabilities**



We are pleased to announce that the latest version of the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) training modules is now

available online! These modules were designed based on input gathered during focus groups with program administrators, T/TA providers, early educators, and family members about the types and content of training that would be most useful in addressing the social-emotional needs of young children. The content of the modules is consistent with evidence-based practices identified through a thorough review of the literature. To view and download these FREE materials which include a variety of formats including PowerPoint presentations and videos, please visit:

<http://www.csefel.uiuc.edu/modules.html>

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SELECTED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND DISSEMINATION CENTERS

From the Technical Assistance for Parent Centers Website <http://www.taalliance.org>

- Technical Assistance Alliance for Parent Centers**
<http://www.taalliance.org>
- Regional Resource and Federal Centers**
<http://www.rrfcnetwork.org>
- National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY)**
<http://www.nichcy.org>
- National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC)**
<http://www.nectac.org>
- National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center**
<http://www.nsttac.org>
- Reading Rockets**
<http://readingrockets.org>
- National Research Center on Learning Disabilities (NRCLD)**
<http://nrclld.org>
- The Access Center: Improving Outcomes for All Students K-8**
<http://www.k8accesscenter.org>
- Center for Improving Teacher Quality**
<http://www.ccsso.org/intasc>
- Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)**
<http://www.pbis.org>
- Consortium for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education (CADRE)**
<http://www.directionservice.org/cadre>
- IDEA Partnership**
<http://www.ideapartnership.org>
- IRIS Center for Faculty Enhancement**
<http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu>
- National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring (NCSEAM)**
<http://www.monitoringcenter.lsuhs.edu>
- The National Center for Special Education Personnel and Related Service Providers (Personnel Center)**
<http://www.personnelcenter.org>
- National Center on Education, Disability, and Juvenile Justice (EDJJ)**
<http://www.edjj.org>
- National Center on Student Progress Monitoring**
<http://www.studentprogress.org>
- National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities**
<http://www.dropoutprevention.org>
- National Institute for Urban School Improvement (NIUSI)**
<http://www.urbanschools.org>
- Professional Development in Autism (PDA) Center**
<http://www.pdacenter.org>
- Project Forum**
<http://www.projectforum.org>
- Technical Assistance in Data Collection, Analysis, and Report Preparation**
<http://www.IDEAdata.org>
- The Early Childhood Outcomes Center:**
<http://www.the-eco-center.org>
- National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO)**
<http://www.nceo.info>
- Midwest Center for Postsecondary Outreach (MCPO)**
<http://www.mcpo.org>
- Center for Implementing Technology in Education (CITED)**
<http://www.citededucation.org>
- Family Center on Technology and Disability (FCTD)**
<http://www.fctd.info>
- NIMAS Development and Technical Assistance Centers**
<http://nimas.cast.org>
- The National Clearinghouse on Postsecondary Education for Individuals with Disabilities, HEATH Resource Center**
<http://www.heath.gwu.edu>
- National Post-School Outcomes Center**
<http://psocenter.org>
- Northeast Technical Assistance Center (NETAC)**
<http://www.netac.rit.edu>
- Postsecondary Education Consortium (PEC) Center on Deafness**
<http://sunsite.utk.edu/cod/pec>
- Western Region Outreach Center and Consortia (WROCC)**
National Center on Deafness
<http://wrocc.csun.edu>
- National Information Clearinghouse on Children Who Are Deaf-Blind (DB-LINK)**
<http://www.dblink.org>
- National Technical Assistance Consortium for Children and Young Adults Who Are Deaf-Blind (NTAC)**
<http://www.tr.wou.edu/ntac>
- Helen Keller National Center**
<http://www.hknc.org>
- Linking Academic Scholars to Educational Resources (Project LASER)**
<http://www.coedu.usf.edu/laser>
- National Center for Culturally Responsive Educational Systems (NCCRESt)**
<http://www.nccrest.org>
- National Center for Personnel Preparation in Special Education at Minority Institutions of Higher Education (Monarch Center)**
<http://www.monarchcenter.org>