
Issue Date: September 12, 2024

Special Education Essentials: Building a Strong Foundation

During school year 2024-2025, the Agency of Education will be offering monthly professional development opportunities on special education essentials. The series is available to all educators with specific emphasis for pathway (d) participants, new teachers to the state, newly licensed teachers and graduates, special education endorsement candidates, general education teachers, high school special education teachers, Educational Support Teams (EST) members, evaluation team members, related service providers, and interventionists. There will be a total of eight training opportunities each hosted two times covering the basics of what someone new in the field of Special Education may need. For more information please contact:

AOE.SpecialEd@vermont.gov.

VTmtss and Data Collection with Michele Hartje

October 22, 2024, from 2-3 p.m. and October 23, 2024, from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

All students are served within a system of support. This model is known as the Vermont Multi-tiered Systems of Support (VTmtss) Framework in Vermont schools. This session will provide an overview of the VTmtss Framework and its components. We will explore effective collaboration across general and special education teams as part of student support planning. Lastly, we will identify key points of student data that will assist the initial special education evaluation. [Please register for VTmtss and Data Collection training.](#)

Disability Determination and Planning for Special Education Evaluations with Cassie Santo and Ernie Wheeler

November 14, 2024, from 8-9:30 a.m. and November 19, 2024, from 3-4:30 p.m.

During this training, participants will explore criterion one of special education eligibility: disability determination. Attendees will have an opportunity to review the [Special Education Evaluation Plan and Report](#) as well as resources to support this phase of the eligibility process. [Please register for Disability Determination and Planning for Special Education Evaluations training.](#)

Adverse Effect, Specially Designed Instruction, and Eligibility Determination with Cassie Santo and Ernie Wheeler

December 3, 2024, from 8-9:30 a.m. and December 5, 2024, from 3-4:30 p.m.

This training will focus on criterion two and three for special education eligibility: adverse effect and the need for specially designed instruction.



Attendees will continue to review the complimentary sections of the [Special Education Evaluation Plan and Report](#) as well as resources to support criterion two and three of the special education eligibility process. [Please register for Adverse Effect, Specially Designed Instruction, and Eligibility Determination training.](#)

Disability Determination and Eligibility: Specific Learning Disability with Cassie Santo and Ernie Wheeler

January 13, 2025, from 8-9:30 a.m. and January 15, 2025, from 3-4:30 p.m.

Participants attending this training can expect to review Special Education Disability and Eligibility for Specific Learning Disability in the state of Vermont. [Please register for Disability Determination and Eligibility: Specific Learning Disability.](#)

Post-Secondary Transition Basics with John Spinney

January 23, 2025, from 9-10 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.

This training will provide an overview for all of the items that special educators need to know related to best practices and Indicator 13 compliance for the IEP Transition plan. Additionally, this training will cover the graduation readiness tool, the summary of performance and a brief overview of the LEA Transition capacity building rubric. [Please register for Post-Secondary Transition Basics training.](#)

Cancelled - Functional Skills with Tracy Harris and Cassie Santo

February 4, 2025, from 10-11:30 a.m. and February 5, 2025, from 2-3:30 p.m.

This training will provide an overview of Functional Skills as it's listed in Basic Skill Areas in Rule 2392(g). Functional skills reflect a student's current abilities, skills, strengths, and weaknesses; academically, socially, and physically. Knowing this information about a student should shape the goals of their IEP by informing how their learning differences affect their ability to learn in the general education curriculum.

Parent and Family Engagement with Caitlin Chisholm and Nancy Hellen

March 25, 2025, from 1-2 p.m. and March 27, 2025, from 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

This training will focus on regulations and best practice related to Parent Participation in IEP Meeting and Parent Input. Participants will also review the Parent Involvement Survey and recent Vermont data related to the percentage of parents who report that the school facilitated parent involvement. [Please register for Parent and Family Engagement training.](#)

Dispute Resolution with Cassie Santo

April 2, 2025 from 8-9:30 a.m. and April 8, 2025, from 3-4:30 p.m.

During this training, participants will learn about the three options available for resolving disputes related to student receiving special education services. These options include administrative complaints, mediation, and due process hearing. [Please register for Dispute Resolution training.](#)