# A-5 Supporting Students with Behavioral Challenges Through the IEP Process

#### **Presenters:**

Laura Kern, University of South Florida; Kate Dooley, University of St. Joseph & Katherine Meyer, University of Connecticut

Content Facilitator: Karen Robbie, University of Connecticut

**Topic: Disability** 

**Keywords: Special Education, Behavior** 



## Virtual Forum Expectations

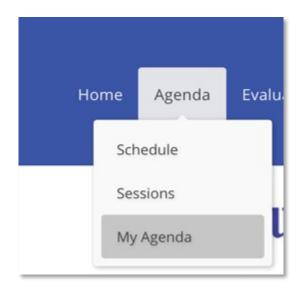
| EXPECTATION       | OVERALL Event   | CHAT Tab   | POLLS Tab (+Q&A)   |
|-------------------|---|--|--|
| BE<br>RESPONSIBLE | Use a shared action plan for your team  | Post positive on-topic comments                  |  |
|                   | <ul><li>Complete session evaluations</li></ul>  | Questions for the presenters go in the POLLs tab |  |
| BE<br>RESPECTFUL  | <ul> <li>Limit distractions</li> <li>Follow up on your assigned action items</li> </ul> | ♦ Use inclusive language                         | <ul><li>Use sincere phrasing</li><li>Complete additional polls when prompted</li></ul> |
| BE<br>SAFE        | <ul><li>→ Take movement breaks</li><li>→ Be aware of your stress level</li></ul>        | Engage in <b>productive</b> dialogue             | Ask solution-<br>oriented questions  |
| For<br>Presenters | Ensure Files Tab has current materials and related weblinks                             | Monitor and remove inappropriate comments        | Identify common Qs<br>to address in final 15<br>minutes                                |



## Finding Your Registered Sessions in **Pathable**

#### Your Personalized Schedule (My Agenda)

Locate the Agenda Menu, Select "My Agenda" from the drop-down, and you will see the sessions for which you are registered. A green check mark in the upper right corner indicates you are registered.

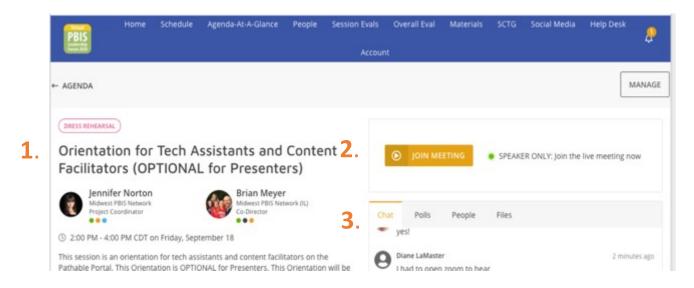






# Navigating the Session Page

- **Session Details** (Title, Presenters, Date & Time, Description, Keywords)
- Join Session
- Interact through Chat, Polls, & Uploaded Files





## Chat, Polls, and Q&A

 Use Chat for engaging with other participants around the session topic.

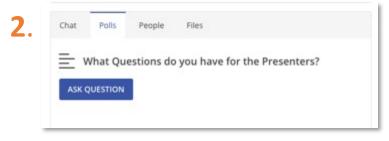
Presenters may use chat differently in specific sessions.

Follow overall Forum expectations for responsible, respectful, and safe chatting



- Find the Q&A under Polls.Questions for presenters go there.
- Some sessions have other Polls or more Specific Questions.

Complete those when prompted



Chat Polls People Files

What is your favorite thing about Fall?

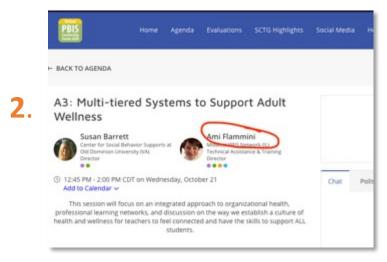


# Be careful of accidently navigating away

#### While participating in a live Session...Be Present!

- If you navigate away from the live Session you will need to press the "Join Meeting" button to get back in.
- What does **navigating away** look like? Here are some examples:
  - Clicking on any area of the navigation menu
  - Clicking on a Person's name







# Support is Available

If at any time you need support as a participant, use the Help Desk:





## When Working In Your Team

## **Consider 5 Questions**

- How does this compare to our priorities?
- What team would oversee this work?
- What should we stop doing to make room for this work?
- How will we assess whether it's (a) implemented well and (b) working?

## Learning Objectives

- This session will focus on enhancing IEPs for students with behavioral challenges.
  - Participants will be introduced to some best practices for developing IEPs, facilitated through a step-by-step worksheet;
  - Examples will be provided of measurable, observable, and relevant goals and participants will have an opportunity to practice developing such goals;
  - Participants will be provided with ways to collaborate with families throughout the process



## Tell us about yourselves!

What's your name?

Where are you joining us from?

What's your role/ position?





## Why? A Non-example

Present level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance:

 Laura struggles to make friends. She often plays by herself on the playground. Laura's parents report she is not invited to Birthday parties or playdates with her classmates.

#### Goal

Laura will make friends in 85% of occasions.

#### Questions

- Is this important?
- Can you observe and measure making friends?
- Are there social skills that might facilitate the intent behind this goal?



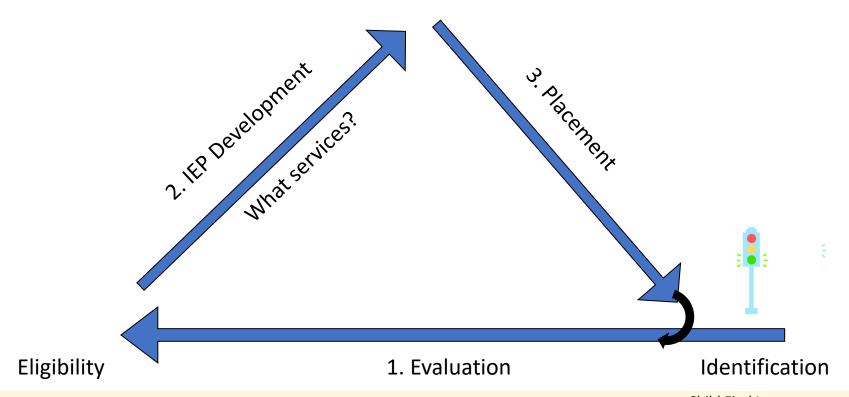
# Let's start at the very beginning...

Model of Special Education

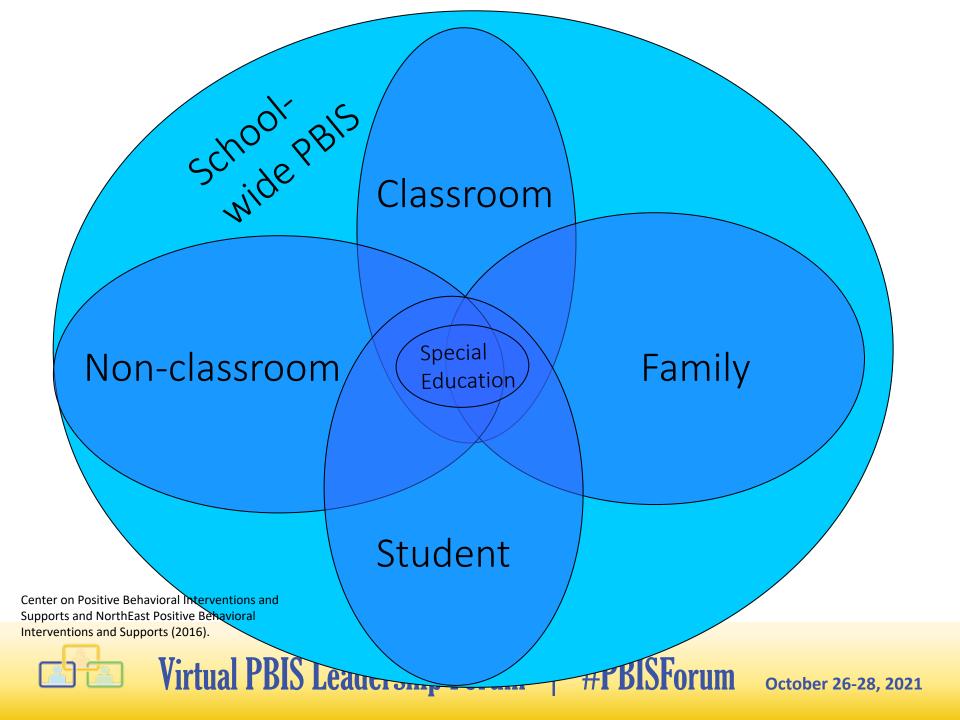


# Model of Special Education

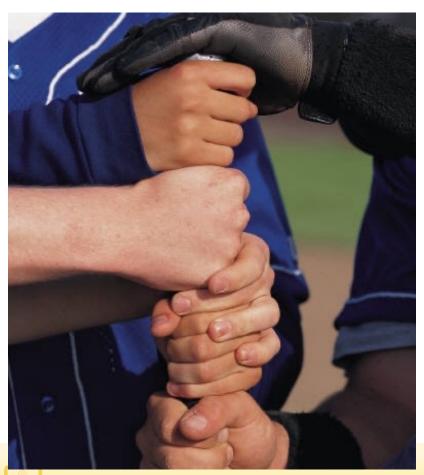
(Bateman & Linden, 2006, p. 19)







## How do we work together to achieve our goal/s?







#### The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships (Version 2)





## Broad Legal Definition of Parent (from IDEA 2004)

- `(23) PARENT- The term `parent' means—
  - `(A) a natural, adoptive, or foster parent of a child (unless a foster parent is prohibited by State law from serving as a parent);
  - `(B) a guardian (but not the State if the child is a ward of the State);
  - `(C) an individual acting in the place of a natural or adoptive parent (including a grandparent, stepparent, or other relative) with whom the child lives, or an individual who is legally responsible for the child's welfare; or
  - `(D) except as used in sections 615(b)(2) and 639(a)(5), an individual assigned under either of those sections to be a surrogate parent.

(20 U.S.C. § 1402)



## What do parents bring to the table?

- Provide information about the student's...
  - ...unique characteristics
  - ...strengths and weaknesses
  - ...behavior in the home
  - ...academic/social history
  - ...data from additional assessments
  - …information about outside influences
  - ...etc.

## Help to provide insight on what is APPROPRIATE!!!



## What is an Appropriate Program?

# What is appropriate?

- FAPE
- Free Appropriate Public Education

What steps do special educators take?

- Assessment
- Documenting Present Level of Performance (PLOP or PLAPFF)
- IEP goal development
- Decisions about services



# **FAPE** Free Appropriate Public Education

<u>Free</u>: Both SPED and Related Services are provided at public's expense

Appropriate: "Chevy Standard" defined by Endrew v. Douglas County School District RE-1 798 F. 3d 1329, vacated and remanded (2017) 798 F. 3d 1329, vacated and remanded (2017):

- Meets requirements of act (Procedurally correct)
- Make progress that is appropriate in light of his or her circumstances
- Individualized/Personalized

<u>Public</u>: Meet public standard (i.e., standards of state education agency)

<u>Education</u>: Include preschool, elementary school, or secondary school education; provided in accordance with IEP.



# Identifying Skills to Teach

How do we make sure we're targeting appropriate social and behavioral goals?



#### Step 1: Identify Skills to Teach

- What are critical and appropriate behavior skills to teach?
- What is the student's present level of performance?

#### Step 2: Develop Goal

What is a meaningful and achievable goal?

#### Step 3: Measure Progress

- How will we know if the student is making meaningful progress?
- If the skill is generalizing?



## What are critical and appropriate behavioral skills?



## **Guiding Principles**

- Social and behavioral skills are primarily *learned behaviors*
- Social and behavioral skills are comprised of *specific and discrete verbal* and nonverbal behaviors
- Social and behavioral skills are highly *contextual*
- Social and behavioral skills include both initiations and responses and are *interactive* by nature

These are skills we can identify & teach!



| Examples   | Non-Examples  |  |
|--|---|--|
| Kate will take 3 slow breaths and identify her feeling on a 5 point scale before responding to teachers when she is asked to do a non-preferred task | Kate will regulate her emotions when she is stressed  |  |
| Katie will raise her hand before speaking during whole group instruction   | Katie will be respectful in the classroom             |  |
| Laura will throw away her trash at the end of lunch  | Laura will follow expectations during lunch           |  |
| Karen will use questions to discover other people's hobbies or interests with initial cues   | Karen will maintain a 4 turn conversation with a peer |  |



Poll: What level of family/student involvement do you typically see?

#### Have a conversation:

- What skills will result in socially significant behavior change?
- What skills are important to the student and their family?
  - Across contexts (e.g., school, home, community)

Increase independence Safety/Quality of life

Communication

Address barriers interfering with learning





#### Assessment

**Rating Scales** 

Direct Observation Structured Interviews

**Records Review** 

Summary perceptions of functioning

- + Objective, less expensive
- + Low freq. bx.
- Response bias

Observe and record behavior in natural setting

- + Considers context
- Time intense

Structured way to obtain specific info

- + Flexibility
- Unreliability, inconsistency, req. training

Consider relevant existing data

- + Unobtrusive, accessible, broad context
- Limited depth



**Virtual PBIS Leadership Forum** 

**#PBISForum** 

Merrell, 2008

October 26-28, 2021

## Evidence-based **Rating Scales**

| Tool   | Raters  | Description   |
|--|---|---|
| Achenbach System of Empirically Based Assessment (ASEBA)           | Parent (Child Behavior Checklist) & Teacher (Teacher Report Form) | Clinical assessment of social, thought, and attention problems                    |
| Behavior Assessment System for Children (BASC-3)                   | Parent & Teacher  | Differential diagnosis of behavior & learning problems                            |
| Clinical Assessment of Behavior (CAB)                              | Parent & Teacher  | Assesses adjustment, psychosocial strengths and weaknesses, and problem behaviors |
| Social, Academic, and Emotional<br>Behavior Risk Screener (SAEBRS) | Teacher   | Universal screener for school-, class-, and individual-level SEL needs            |
| Social Skills Improvement System (SSIS) Rating Scales              | Parent, Teacher, Student  | Evaluate social skills, problem behaviors, academic competence                    |



Direct Observation

- What is the context/setting/routine?
- Who is or isn't around?
- Are there times when the student does perform the skill?
- Are the challenges limited to school or do they occur at home?
- What does the behavior of concern look like (specific, observable, measurable)?
  - Intensity, duration, variability
- What changes as a result?
  - Consider access and escape to/from activity, attention, sensory stimulation
  - Does this change in different settings (school/home/community)?

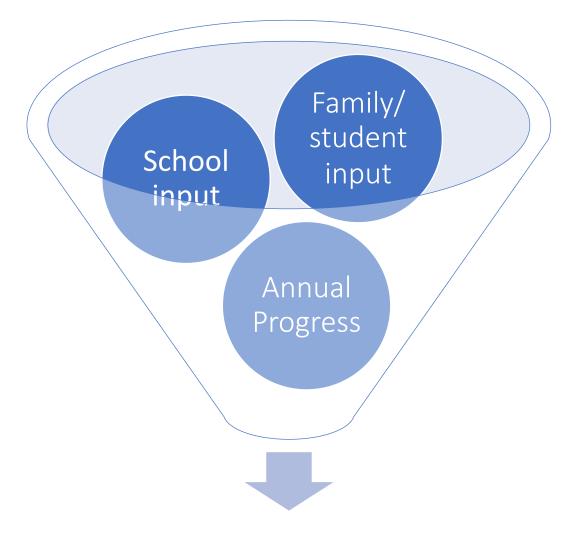




## Back to our example Laura: Worksheet

- Laura is a second grade student with average receptive and expressive verbal skills
- What behavior is of most concern to the school? Family? Student? What does this behavior look like? Laura often plays and completes classroom assignments independently when asked to work with her peers she puts her head down and walks out of the classroom. Laura's refusal to interact with peers make it difficult for her participate in small group/large group activities and collaborative projects. Additionally, Laura often sits and interacts with adults during lunch and recess.





**Present Levels of Performance** 



# Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance

- Describes the effect of the disability in the general curriculum
- Includes
  - Academic and non-academic areas
  - Objective and measurable terms
    - Data-based
    - Evaluation scores need to be self-explanatory or explained clearly
  - Written in the areas addressed by Special Education
  - Linked to other areas in IEP (all needs must be addressed)
- Provides a quantitative baseline of student's level of performance and her/his performance is relation to her/his peers.
- Foundation to the rest of the IEP



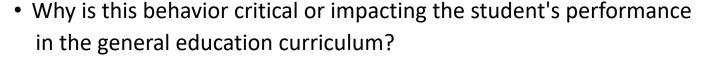
## PLAAFP

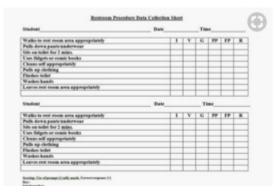
Observable and Measurable Behavior...What does the behavior look

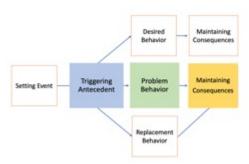
like? What are the baseline levels of the behavior?

Functional Areas (e.g., adaptive living skills)

- Task analysis what skills are necessary for a behavior and
- What skills has the student has mastered/not mastered
- "Behavior Problems"
  - Baseline rates of problem behavior,
  - Function of the PB,
  - Alternative socially acceptable replacement behaviors, and
  - Desired behaviors (Yell, Bateman, Shriner, 2022, p. 73)







## PLAAFP

- Functional Areas
  - When and Where does the student need to perform the behavior?
  - What skills is/is not the student performing?
    - Consider school, home, and community
- Behavior Problems
  - When is where is the problem behavior occurring and not occurring?
  - What is the frequency, duration, etc. of the problem behavior?
  - What is the replacement behavior or desired behavior? This is the expected behavior?
    - Are they performing the expected behavior?



## PLAAFP Expected Behavior

- It is important we teach and focus our supports on behaviors we want students to perform
  - Functional Areas are positively stated
  - Problem Behaviors go in the PLAAFP but...what do we want our student to do? This is the desired behavior or replacement behavior. These are Expected Behaviors.
    - What does the expected behavior look like? Observable and Measurable examples and Non-Examples? When and where is the student expected to perform the behavior inside/outside of school?
    - Is the student performing the skill (Acquistion)?
    - If so, when, where, how often? Does the skill maintain over time or do you have to reteach it? Does the student perform the skill in new settings, with different staff, or adapt the skill?



## What does the Behavior Look Like?

 When asked to sit or work with her peers, participate in small group/large group activities Laura elopes or puts her head down on her desk.

#### When are where is the behavior occurring?

• During small/large group academic activities, lunch, and physical education throughout the entire day.

#### What is the frequency of the behavior?

• On average Laura; elopes 3x per day for 45-minutes and puts her head down 5x per day 10-mins.

#### What is the expected behavior?

- Replacement Behavior: Ask for a break
- Desired Behavior: Interact with Peers



#### Expected Behavior: Peer Interactions

#### **Examples**

- Peer greetings (e.g., good morning)
- Response to peer questions (e.g., how was your weekend?)
- Contribute to group discussion (e.g., shares ideas, solutions)
- Collaborate with peers on assignments
- Sits with peers during lunch
- Plays mutually enjoyed games with peers during recess

#### Non Examples

- Greets teachers/staff
- Responds to teachers/staff
- Completes group work independently and turns it into teacher or group
- Sits with peers during group assignment and remains silent or puts head down
- Sits with teachers/staff during lunch
- Stands with teachers during recess



## Back to our example Laura: Worksheet

- Laura is a second grade student with average receptive and expressive verbal skills
- What is the expected behavior? What skills are needed to perform the expected behavior? Laura often plays and completes classroom assignments independently when asked to work with her peers she puts her head down and walks out of the classroom. Laura's refusal to interact with peers make it difficult for her participate in small group/large group activities and collaborative projects. Additionally, Laura often sits and interacts with adults during lunch and recess.



## Identify student's level of learning and how to teach skills to address that level

Social/behavioral deficits can be *acquisition* ("can't do") or *performance* ("won't do") problems

- 1. Promote skill acquisition
- 2. Enhance skill performance
- 3. Reduce/eliminate any competing interfering problem behaviors
- 4. Promote generalization

May require a combination of acquisition, performance, & behavior reduction strategies



## Examples

#### **Objective**

Promote skill acquisition

#### Example

- Academic: Learn to blend letter sounds
- Behavior: Learn to identify different emotions in self & others

- Enhance skill performance
- Academic: Search for main idea in text across all subjects
- Behavior: Use "please" and "thank you" consistently



#### Examples

#### **Objective**

Reduce/eliminate any competing interfering problem behaviors

Promote generalization

#### **Example**

- Academic: Increase frustration tolerance to persist with difficult math worksheet
- Behavior: Teach to take deep breathes before teaching conflict resolution with peers
- Academic: Checking spelling at school and home using the same checklist
- Behavior: Being able to use problem solving skills learned in special education intervention for math and science



## Select One Skill: Peer Greetings

- Acquistion: Laura does not greet peers, however, she greets her classroom teacher and teacher assistant everyone morning.
- Frequency: Peer Greeting 0x per week
- Maintenance: Behavior not present
- Generalization: Laura greets her teacher and teacher assistant 5x per week, Laura does not greet her classmates in settings outside of school.



## Back to our example Laura: Worksheet

- Laura is a second grade student with average receptive and expressive verbal skills
- What is the student's stage of learning for that skill? Laura often plays and completes classroom assignments independently when asked to work with her peers she puts her head down and walks out of the classroom. Laura's refusal to interact with peers make it difficult for her participate in small group/large group activities and collaborative projects. Additionally, Laura often sits and interacts with adults during lunch and recess.



## Developing Meaningful Goals

What do we need to include for appropriate social and behavioral goals?



#### Step 1: Identify Skills to Teach

- What are critical and appropriate behavior skills to teach?
- What is the student's present level of performance?

#### Step 2: Develop Goal

What is a meaningful and achievable goal?

#### Step 3: Measure Progress

- How will we know if the student is making meaningful progress?
- If the skill is generalizing?



#### **IEP Goals Are**

# Designed to:

- Meet needs resulting from disability
- To enable participation and progress in general curriculum
- Meet other needs

# For the purpose of:

- Assessing appropriateness of services
- Monitoring child's progress

(20 USC §1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(II)); DOE, 1998 Appendix C, Question 4 as cited in Bateman & L 1998



## **Annual Goals**

Every child must have annual goals in areas of need

# Benchmarks (short term objectives)

Federal Law only requires benchmarks for students who are assessed with alternate assessments

IEP must contain a statement about how progress toward goals is measured



Goals/Objectives should be linked to assessment



## What should goals look like?

Goals and objectives should have 4 components:

Poll: What percent of the goals you see include all 4 components?

- 1. The learner
- 2. The critical behavior (observable and measurable)
- 3. The conditions
- 4. Criteria for accuracy

## Example

| (conditions) | ,(         | learner)          | _ will  |
|--------------|------------|-------------------|---|
|              |            |                   |   |
| uracy ac     | cross 5 t  | rials             |   |
|              | (criteria) | (criteria) with a | (conditions), (learner)  (criteria) with an ave uracy across 5 trials |

or on \_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_ opportunities.



## Example goal (Kate)

Poll: In your experience, which component is most likely to be excluded or forgotten?

Kate will take 3 slow breaths and identify her feeling on a 5 point scale before responding to teachers when she is asked to do a non-preferred task

- The learner: Kate
- The critical behavior (observable and measurable): Kate will take 3 slow 2. breaths and identify her feeling on a 5 point scale before responding to teachers when she is asked to do a non-preferred task
- The conditions: With verbal prompts **3.**
- Criteria for accuracy: 4 out 5 sampled opportunities across 3 trials 4.

With verbal prompts, Kate will take 3 slow breaths and identify her feeling on a 5 point scale before responding to teachers when she is asked to do a non-preferred task in 4 out 5 sampled opportunities across 3 trials



## Example/non-example Goal

#### **Examples**

- During whole group instruction, without prompts (Conditions), Katie will raise her hand before speaking (Behavior), on 90% of occasions across 10 sampled opportunities.
- At the end of lunch, Laura will throw away her trash at the end of lunch, 100% of occasions across 10 opportunities.
- During peer-to-peer interactions (e.g., lunch, recess, free play) given a list of questions and teacher prompts, Karen will ask peers questions about her/his hobbies or interests in 3 out 4 sampled opportunities across 5 consecutive sessions.

#### **Non-Examples**

 Katie will raise her hand during class 85% of the time

 Laura will throw away her lunch in 4 out of 5 opportunities.

 Karen will increase social interactions with peers 85% of the time.



## Measuring Progress

How do we make sure seeing changes in our social and behavioral goals?



#### Step 1: Identify Skills to Teach

- What are critical and appropriate behavior skills to teach?
- What is the student's present level of performance?

#### Step 2: Develop Goal

What is a meaningful and achievable goal?

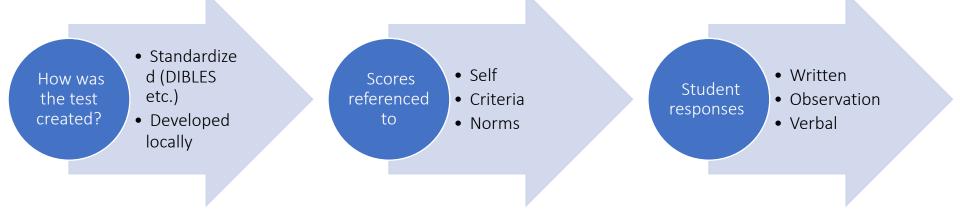
#### Step 3: Measure Progress

- How will we know if the student is making meaningful progress?
- If the skill is generalizing?



#### How will we know if criteria has been met?

#### Methods of Evaluation





## Expected Behavior: Goals and Objectives

- Review your expected behavior is it a
  - Functional Area?
    - Assessment will include a task analysis
  - Expected Behavior needs to be performed...
    - accurately,
    - more frequently,
    - without reteaching, or
    - in more settings/times of day/teachers?
  - How will you assess each?
    - Task analysis: number of skills completed (with/without prompts)
    - Accuracy: Percent accurate, number of times skill is performed accurately
    - Fluency: How quickly and accurately (rate) can they perform the skill?
    - Maintenance: Can they retain fluency over time without reteaching or prompts?
    - Generalization: Assessment of fluency in new settings, with different people, or adaptation of the skill.



## Matching the assessment to the students level of learning

- Acquisition: Laura does not greet peers, however, she greets her classroom teacher and teacher assistant every morning.
- Frequency: Peer Greeting 0x per week
- Maintenance: Behavior not present
- Generalization: Laura greets her teacher and teacher assistant 5x per week, Laura does not greet her classmates in settings outside of school.



#### Generalization

Type in the chat: What challenges have you encountered with ensuring generalization?

Across settings

- Within the school
- Outside of school (e.g., home, employment, community living, post-secondary education)

**Across** people

- Teachers/peers within the school
- Adults/peers outside of school

Adapting

Adjusting the behavior to new context



## Back to our example Laura: Worksheet

- Laura is a second grade student with average receptive and expressive verbal skills
- How will you assess the skill? Across time, settings, people? Laura often plays and completes classroom assignments independently when asked to work with her peers she puts her head down and walks out of the classroom. Laura's refusal to interact with peers make it difficult for her participate in small group/large group activities and collaborative projects. Additionally, Laura often sits and interacts with adults during lunch and recess.



Putting it together: Writing a meaningful IEP goal



## Review: What should goals look like?

Goals and objectives should have 4 components:

- 1. The learner
- 2. The critical behavior (observable and measurable)
- 3. The conditions
- 4. Criteria for accuracy



Review: Example

| Given _    | (conditions) |         | (learner) | _ will |
|------------|--------------|---------|-----------|--------|
| (behavior) | (criteria)   |         |           |        |
| acc        | curacy a     | cross 5 | 5 trials  |        |

or on out of \_\_\_\_ opportunities.



## Back to our example Laura: Worksheet

- Laura is a second grade student with average receptive and expressive verbal skills
- What would an IEP goal look like? Laura often plays and completes classroom assignments independently when asked to work with her peers she puts her head down and walks out of the classroom. Laura's refusal to interact with peers make it difficult for her participate in small group/large group activities and collaborative projects. Additionally, Laura often sits and interacts with adults during lunch and recess.



## Example

- Goal: Without prompts during arrival, Laura will verbally initiate a morning greeting (e.g., good morning) with a peer sitting next to her in 4 out 5 opportunities across 5 consecutive days.
- Objectives
  - With teacher modeling, Laura will verbally initiate a morning greeting (e.g., good morning) with a peer sitting next to her in 4 out 5 opportunities across 5 consecutive days.
  - With verbal prompts, Laura will verbally initiate a morning greeting (e.g., good morning) with a peer sitting next to her in 4 out 5 opportunities across 5 consecutive days.
  - With visual prompts, Laura will verbally initiate a morning greeting (e.g., good morning) with a peer sitting next to her in 4 out 5 opportunities across 5 consecutive days.



## In sum, an IEP must have the following components:

- Present levels of academic achievement and functional performance, including...
  - measurable annual goals, including academic and functional goals...
  - Description of how the child's progress toward meeting the annual goals will be measured and when periodic reports on the progress the child is making toward meeting the annual goals will be provided

## Bonus! Accommodations and Modifications



#### Accommodations and Modifications



Supports for students receiving special education that:

- (A) meet the individualized needs of the student,
  - (B) support the success of the student, and
  - (C) are outlined in the IEP

Hamilton & Kessler (2013) nichcy.org



## What is the difference between an accommodation and a modification?

#### **Accommodation**

"A change that helps a student overcome or work around the disability. These changes are typically physical or environmental changes"

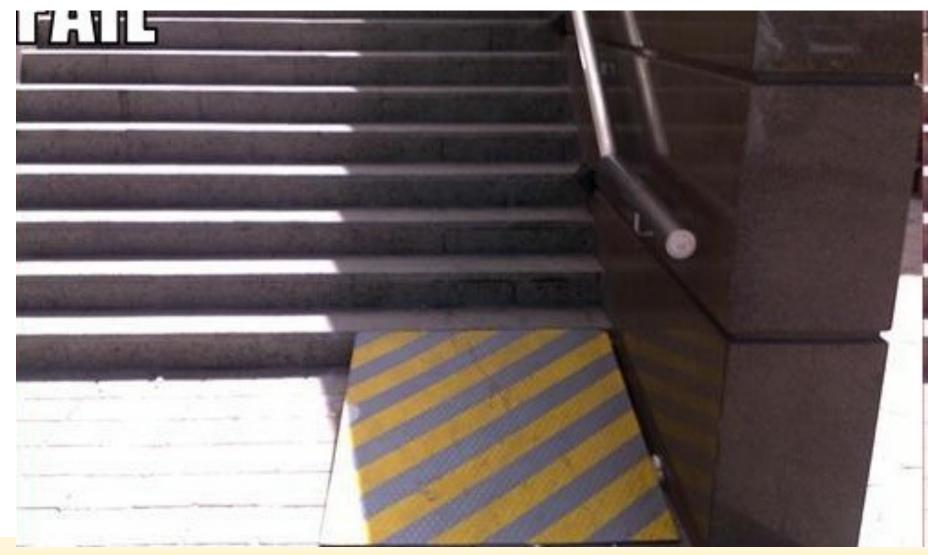
Example: Student allowed to type answers to essay questions.

#### Modification

"Modifications are generally connected to instruction and assessment, things that can be tangibly changed or modified. Usually a modification means a change in what is being taught to or expected from the student"

Example: Student is only given multiple choice questions







## **Examples**

- Assessment: Kate has difficulty taking notes in a classroom because she is easily distracted by peers
- Accommodation: Kate is given preferred seating in the front of the class
- Assessment: Katie is reading at a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level and is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Modification: She is given a reading passage matched to her reading level in her English class

## **Non-Examples**

 All students with ADHD sit at the front of the class

 All students with learning disabilities are given 3<sup>rd</sup> grade alternate reading passages



## Back to our example Laura: Worksheet

- Laura is a second grade student with average receptive and expressive verbal skills
- What are relevant accommodations/modifications? Laura often plays and completes classroom assignments independently when asked to work with her peers she puts her head down and walks out of the classroom. Laura's refusal to interact with peers make it difficult for her participate in small group/large group activities and collaborative projects. Additionally, Laura often sits and interacts with adults during lunch and recess.
  - What accommodations/modifications would help support her individualized needs?



#### Questions?

 See handout for additional resources





# Please Complete this Session's Evaluation Session #A5 - Intentional Integration of Intensive Intervention

- 1. In the Event Platform/App:
- In "Files" tab,
- In "Evaluations" in the navigation menu
- In "Chat"

AFTER YOU SUBMIT EACH SESSION EVALUATION, CLICK THE LINK TO ENTER THE GIFT CARD RAFFLE OR

2. QR Code



Evaluations are anonymous! We send reminder emails to all participants.

