

Abstract

Louisiana State Personnel Development Grant (LaSPDG) intends to improve literacy outcomes for students with disabilities (SWD) through the development of a systematic professional development (PD) framework using evidence-based practices: (1) Data-Driven Decision Making (DDDM), (2) Literacy Strategies, (3) Coaching, and (4) Family Partnerships. The PD System will be delivered to districts, schools, teachers, and families. This project builds upon sustaining two current PD practices, DDDM and Family Partnerships, while adding two additional practices, Literacy Strategies and Coaching.

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) will partner with Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) representing over 30 individual schools, Louisiana State University (LSU), and Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center (LaPTIC). LaSPDG is aligned with the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) to increase proficiency rate for SWD in grades 3-5 on statewide assessments in SSIP LEA Cohort. Capacity will be built within schools, within the district, and across districts of the state to sustain the PD efforts.

The systematic PD framework will be developed, implemented, and evaluated by LDOE, LaSPDG, consultants, coaches, and supported by management teams. The PD system will be guided by the Implementation Science and Drivers developed by National Implementation Research Network (NIRN). The initial PD will occur face-to-face every summer and on-going PD will occur throughout the year with on-site and virtual support, online learning, coaching, and learning communities. Technology will be integrated to increase the effectiveness of the PD delivery and to analyze data outcomes. The evaluation plan will be formative and summative measures guided by program and project measures using a variety of evaluation tools such as district capacity tools, surveys, practice profiles, and activity reports.