About IRIS
Supported by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and located at Vanderbilt University’s Peabody College, the IRIS Center creates high-quality, online open educational resources (OERs) about evidence-based instructional and behavioral practices to help improve the education outcomes of all students, especially struggling learners and those with disabilities. IRIS resources:

» Improve pre-service and PD training and improve opportunities for independent learning
» Enhance the awareness, knowledge, and skills of current and future educators and service providers
» Align with professional standards and high-leverage practices

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Supporting the preparation of effective educators to improve outcomes for all students, especially struggling learners and those with disabilities
STAR Legacy Modules

Based on a proven theory of adult learning and structured around the award-winning STAR Legacy instructional cycle, IRIS Modules offer in-depth looks at topics relevant to educators through text, graphics, interactive activities, interviews with experts and educators, and video demonstrations. User-friendly, approachable, and highly engaging, our modules are made up of five components:

1. Challenge: A case-based video scenario that introduces the topic and invites inquiry
2. Initial Thoughts: Questions that activate learners’ prior knowledge about the topic
3. Perspectives & Resources: Scaffolded, engaging, and accessible content developed using instructional design principles
4. Wrap Up: A summary of the module content
5. Assessment: An opportunity for learners to evaluate what they have learned or need to study further

Case Studies
Ideal for use in personnel preparation courses and PD activities, IRIS Case Studies ask learners to approach realistic instructional scenarios through increasing levels of complexity.

Activities
Perfect as independent assignments or as a way to promote discussion, activities are divided into a number of categories, including “Case Based,” “Group,” “Media,” and “Independent.”

Information Briefs
Gathered from a number of reliable sources, these short summaries on key educational topics and practices are included on the IRIS Website as supplemental materials.

Interviews
Key researchers offer their perspectives on a variety of important issues in the field of special education, including diversity, evidence-based practices, and response to intervention.

Video Vignettes
This collection of videos about individuals with disabilities, their families, advocates, educators, and service providers also contains depictions of the application of evidence-based practices in educational settings.

Evidence-Based Practice Summaries Tool
Search this tool for information about instructional and behavioral interventions, including the level of effectiveness and age groups for which those strategies and interventions are designed. Links to further information are also available for those who wish to learn more.

High-Leverage Practices (HLP) Tool
Developed in collaboration with CEEDAR, this tool identifies existing IRIS resources that contain information on HLPs, 22 essential special education techniques that all K–12 special education teachers should master for use across a variety of classroom circumstances. This tool allows users to sort results by:

- HLP topic areas (assessment, collaboration, instruction, social/ emotional/ behavioral)
- Degree of alignment (strongly, moderately, loosely)
- Content type (information, implementation)

Fundamental Skill Sheets (FSS)
Quick primers or reminders about discrete skills such as proximity control and behavior specific praise, fundamental skill sheets provide consistent features about each practice including:

- What Is It?
- What Do We Know About This Skill/ Practice?
- Procedures
- Tips for Implementation
- Things To Keep in Mind
- Implementation Examples (including videos)
- Foundational References & Resources

For Faculty
The tools and materials in this section are designed to assist college faculty who wish to infuse information about evidence-based practices into their courses and field-based activities. Explore “For Faculty” to find:

- Wrap-Around Content Maps
- Sample Syllabi
- Curriculum Matrices
- Coursework Planning Forms
- Top Tips for Faculty
- Answer Keys

For PD Providers
IRIS has developed many tools and materials specifically to assist professional development providers who deliver training services to educational professionals working in school settings. Explore “For PD Providers” to find:

- Wrap-Around Content Maps
- Sample PD Activity Collection
- Planning Forms
- Top Tips for PD Providers
- Answer Keys