

# 2024 Year in Review



**IRIS**  
CENTER

Preparing and  
Supporting Educators

[iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu](http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu)  
[iriscenter.com](http://iriscenter.com)

# IRIS IMPACT: GLOBAL

## WHAT WE DO

IRIS develops free online resources about effective instructional and behavioral practices for educators, giving them the knowledge and skills to help support all students, particularly struggling learners and those with disabilities served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504. Designed to translate research to practice, IRIS resources are used by educators and other school personnel throughout their careers. From college students to seasoned classroom veterans, IRIS supports educators everywhere.

## IRIS BY THE NUMBERS

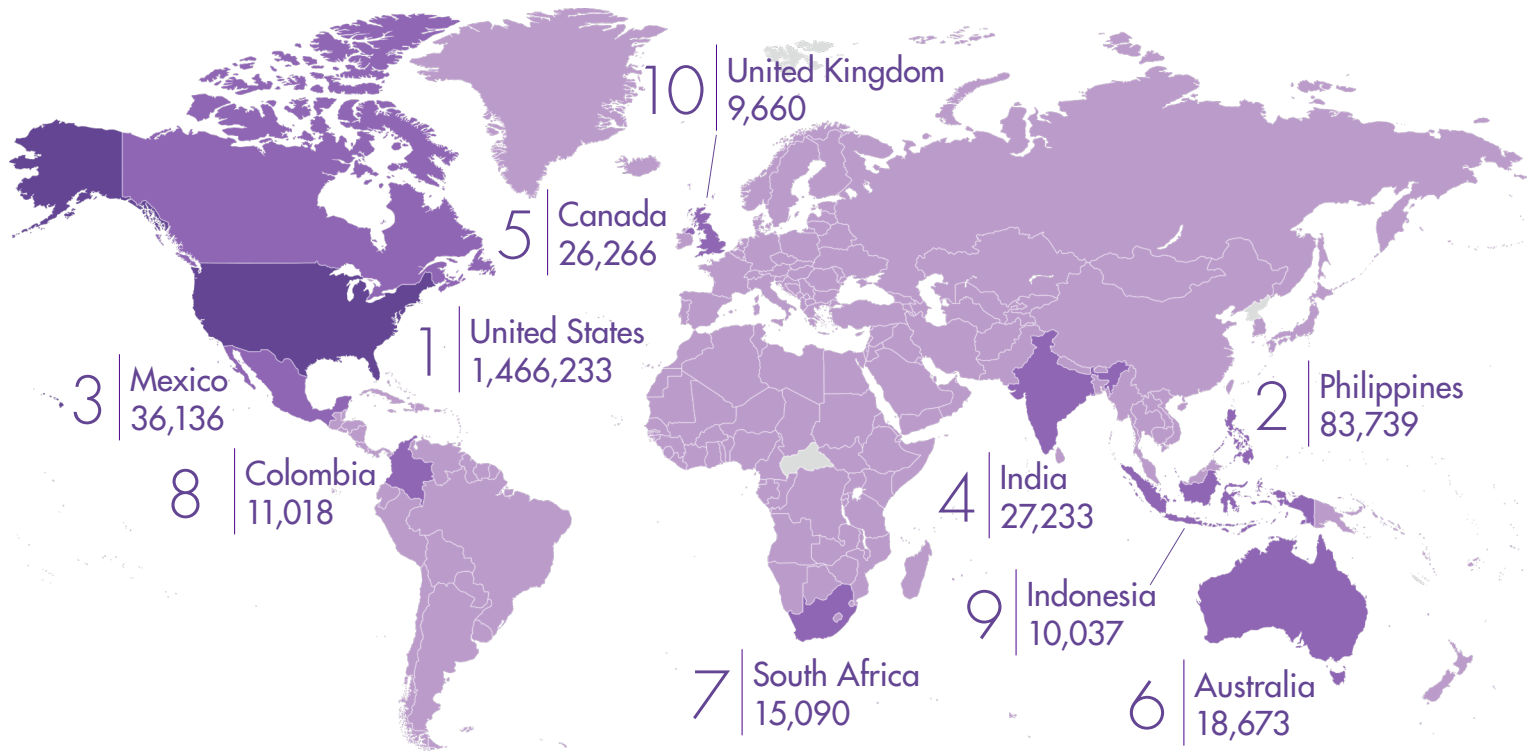
Once again, millions of people used resources on the IRIS website.

Users	<b>2 million</b>	Total pageviews	<b>23.6 million</b>
Visits*	<b>3 million</b>	Avg grant cost per visit	<b>55¢</b>

\*Due to more precise Google Analytics data, "visits" only includes engaged sessions.

## GLOBAL USE

In 2024, IRIS was used in 226 countries and territories worldwide. The top 10 (by users) are shown below.

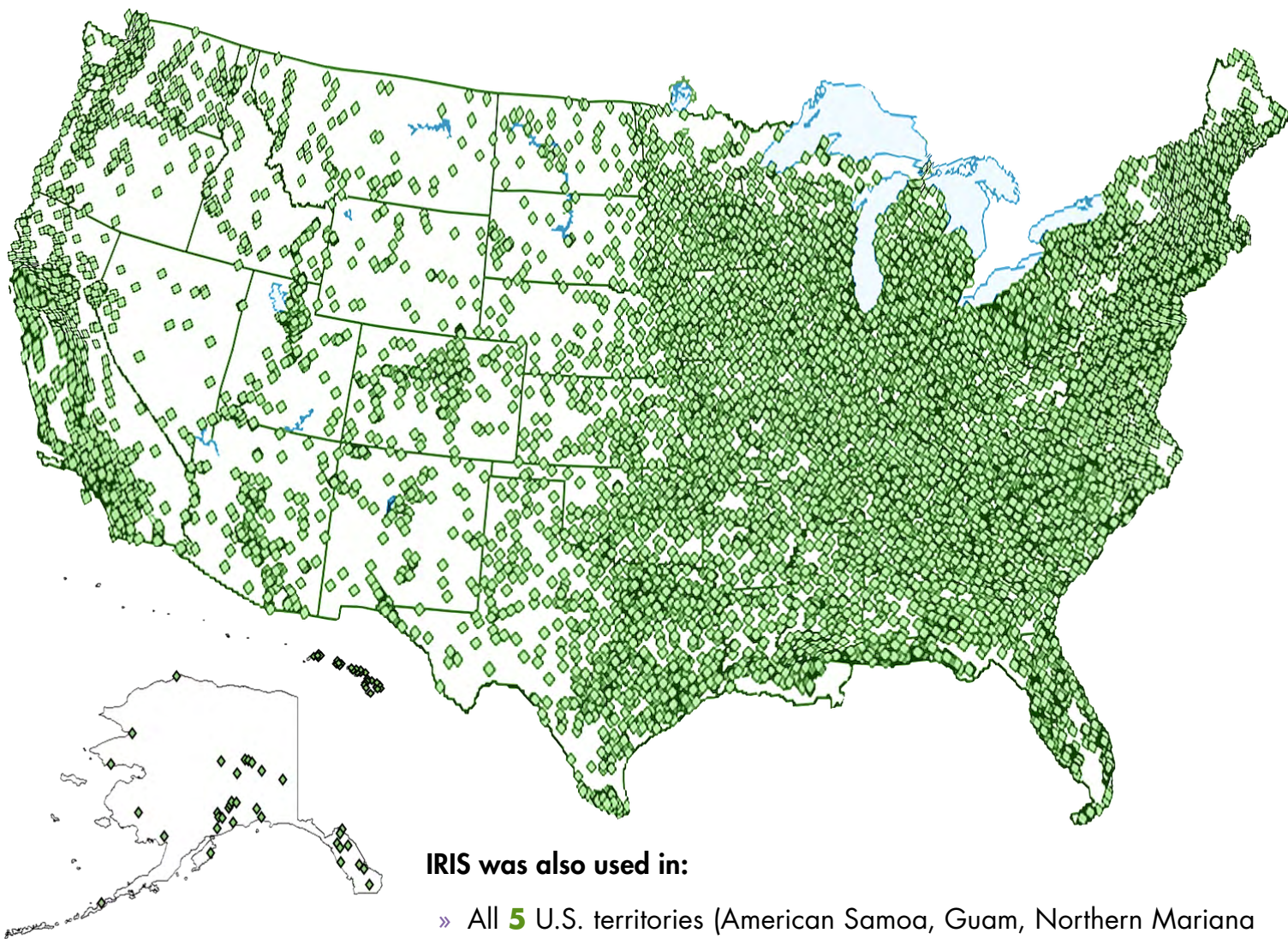


IRIS modules are a valuable resource for anyone involved in education, particularly those working to support students with special needs. They help bridge the gap between theory and practice, providing practical tools that can be directly applied in educational settings.

Graduate Student  
Autism Spectrum Disorder (Part 1) Module


# IRIS IMPACT: UNITED STATES

Approximately 1.5 million people in the United States accessed IRIS resources in 2024. Every dot on this geolocation map represents a town or city where IRIS was used.




## IRIS was also used in:

- » All **5** U.S. territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands)
- » Over **1,500** colleges and universities, including over **300** that offer associate degrees (e.g., community, junior, and technical colleges)
- » All **50** State Departments of Education or other government offices
- » Nearly **1,000** public school districts
- » Numerous alternative certification and apprenticeship programs



The module's topics and resources are relevant for a variety of professionals who work with families, including educators, social workers, counselors, and healthcare providers.

Alternate Certification Program Instructor  
Family Engagement Module



IRIS Center resources taught me how to apply the information I learned to situations that I encounter daily in the special education classroom.

Alabama Temporary Special Education  
Certification Program Participant

# IRIS IMPACT: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

While increasing their knowledge and skills, educators can earn IRIS PD Certificates to verify module completion. In 2024, educators accessed:

**176,352** | Free PD Certificates

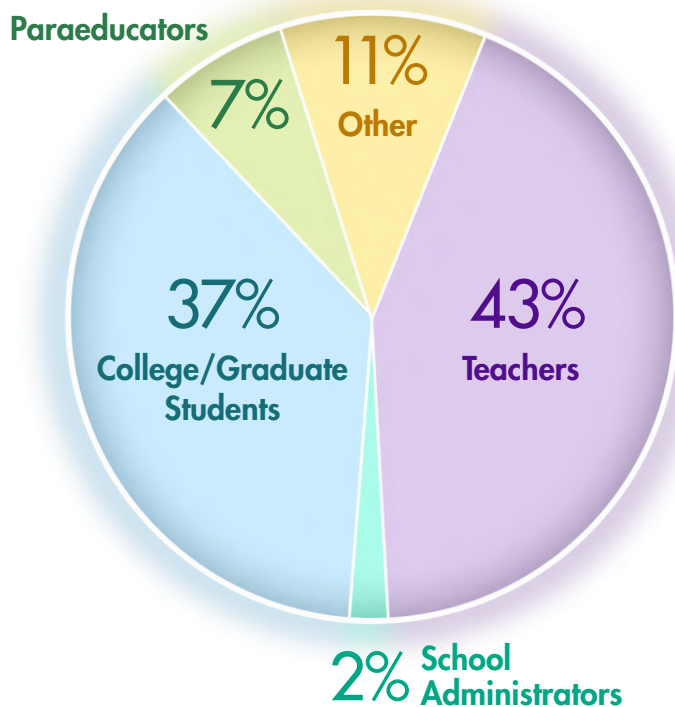
**29%** | Increase over 2023



A generous gift from the Wachs family helped us provide free PD Certificates for Educators in 2024!

## WHO IS ACCESSING?

Nearly 50,000 educators set up new accounts in the IRIS PD Certificate platform in 2024. Certificates were earned by both future and current educators in a range of roles.



These educators worked with a variety of student populations.

**68%** taught students with disabilities

**65%** taught students from low-income backgrounds

**41%** taught students who are English learners

Note: Results add to more than 100% because respondents could select more than one group.

## WHAT ARE THEY ACCESSING?

### Most Popular PD Certificates in 2024

1. Addressing Challenging Behaviors (Part 1, Elementary): Understanding the Acting-Out Cycle
2. Classroom Behavior Management (Part 1): Key Concepts and Foundational Practices
3. Universal Design for Learning: Designing Learning Experiences That Engage and Challenge All Students
4. Accommodations: Instructional and Testing Supports for Students with Disabilities
5. Autism Spectrum Disorder (Part 1): An Overview for Educators

# IRIS IMPACT: BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

In addition to improving the knowledge and skills of educators, IRIS resources are being used in other ways.

## School Transportation Department

A Maine school district uses IRIS resources to help bus monitors understand and address the needs of students with disabilities while transporting them to and from school.

## Hospitals and Healthcare

IRIS resources were accessed by:

- » Over 220 hospitals
- » More than 350 other healthcare systems and organizations (see *related quote below*)

## Federal Guidance

IRIS resources were included in the U.S. Department of Education's federal guidance supporting the implementation of IDEA and in a classroom practice guide for educators.

- » [Myths and Facts Surrounding Assistive Technology Devices and Services](#)
- » [Using Functional Behavioral Assessments to Create Supportive Learning Environments](#)
- » [Teacher-Delivered Behavioral Interventions in Grades K–5: A Practice Guide for Educators](#)

## Justice Systems

IRIS resources were accessed by courts and Departments of Justice, including:

- » County courts
- » State general, superior, and supreme courts

## College Majors

College students in non-education majors also used IRIS. Some of those majors included:

- » Biomedical engineering
- » Business
- » Cosmetology
- » Criminal justice
- » Healthcare and public health
- » Kinesiology
- » Mental health counseling
- » Nursing
- » Pre-med
- » Psychology
- » Social work
- » Sports management



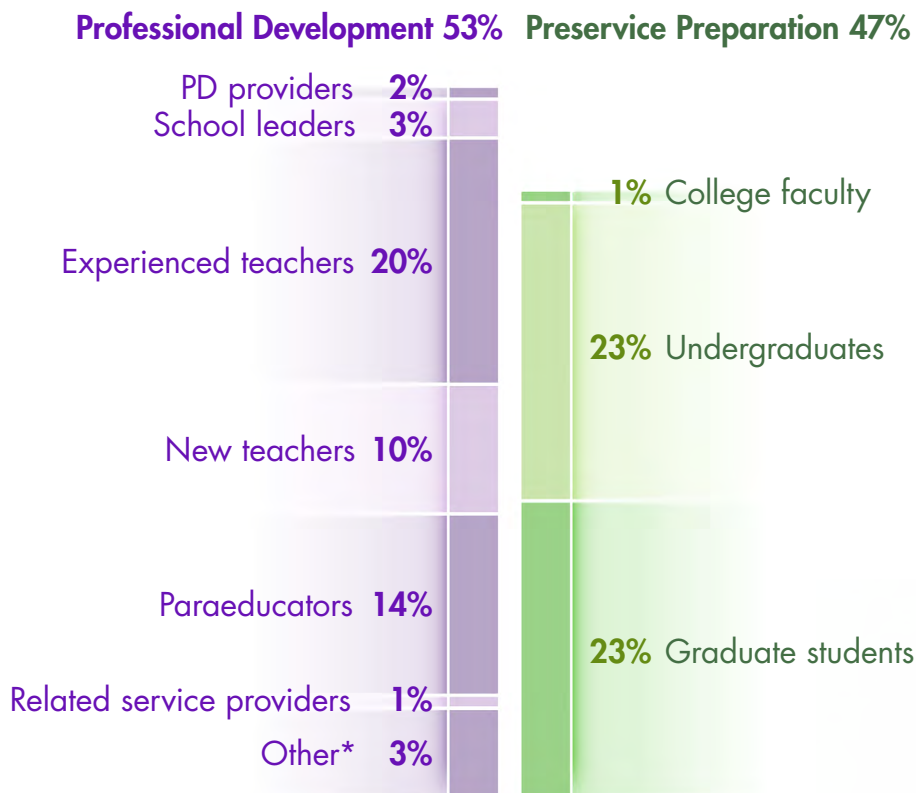
I'm ... currently in the process of establishing a permanent collection of children's books featuring strength-based representations of disability to display in the waiting area of our primary outpatient clinic. I wanted to ... let you know how valuable your Children's Book search tool was in identifying books to add to our collection. We appreciate your enduring commitment ... and thought you'd like to know that your efforts are making a meaningful impact on the children and families who pass through our clinic.

Occupational Therapist | Department of Occupational Therapy  
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

# IRIS MODULE USE

IRIS analyzed 11,217 user responses to our 2024 Online Module Feedback Form. Respondents self-identified their current roles and focus areas.

## ROLES



## FOCUS AREAS

- 44% Special education
- 35% General education
- 15% Early intervention/early childhood
- 5% Other\*

\*Includes other school personnel (e.g., substitute teachers, career and technical education teachers, cafeteria staff, librarians) and those who reported multiple categories

This was a great module and helps set the standard for effective learning modules.

Paraeducator  
Addressing Challenging Behaviors (Pt. 1, Elementary) Module



## TOP 5 MODULES ACCESSED

1. IEPs: Developing High-Quality Individualized Education Programs
2. Classroom Behavior Management (Part 1): Key Concepts and Foundational Practices
3. Differentiated Instruction: Maximizing the Learning of All Students
4. Functional Behavioral Assessment: Identifying the Reasons for Problem Behavior and Developing a Behavior Plan
5. Universal Design for Learning: Designing Learning Experiences That Engage and Challenge All Students



Even after teaching for over 35 years and teaching [two college] classes, I rely on the resources and modules for both of these classes. The information provided is useful, relevant and easy for my new teachers in training to understand. I am confident they will use the information they get from all of the IRIS modules and resources in their future classrooms.

College Faculty  
Addressing Challenging Behaviors (Part 1, Elementary)

# 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

## WHAT'S NEW IN RESOURCES?

### Resource Highlights

IRIS developed, revised, or updated six resources and enhanced the user experience by improving the design and navigation of our modules.



New STAR Legacy cycle image

<a href="#">Bookshare: Providing Accessible Materials for Students with Print Disabilities</a>	Module (New)
<a href="#">Secondary Transition: Helping Students with Disabilities Plan for Postsecondary Settings</a>	Module (Revised)
<a href="#">Universal Design for Learning: Designing Learning Experiences That Engage and Challenge All Students</a>	Module (Updated)
<a href="#">Evaluating Student Performance Using a Trend Line Analysis: The Tukey Method</a>	IRIS Info Brief (New)
<a href="#">Progress Monitoring: Mastery Measurement vs. General Outcome Measurement</a>	IRIS Info Brief (Updated)
<a href="#">Disability Awareness: Disability-Related Language</a>	IRIS Activity (Revised)

### Resource Collections

We revised many resource collections and tools to update content and improve accessibility so that text, tables, and images can be read properly by assistive technology. As a result, we now have a newly developed library of 500+ alt text descriptions to accompany IRIS graphics!

		Updated Content	Improved Accessibility
<b>1,200+</b>	Definitions in the IRIS Glossary	✓	
<b>252</b>	Module-related resources and web page handouts	✓	✓
<b>75</b>	Wraparound Resources (formerly Wraparound Content Maps)	✓	✓
<b>24</b>	Coursework Planning Forms	✓	✓
<b>24</b>	Dissemination handouts	✓	✓
<b>20</b>	IRIS Info Briefs, Fundamental Skill Sheets, Case Studies		✓
<b>62</b>	New books added to the Children's Book tool	✓	✓
<b>15</b>	New films added to the Films tool	✓	

## HOW DO EDUCATORS LEARN ABOUT IRIS RESOURCES?

### We Tell Them

- 128,000** people on our email list (60% increase over 2023)
- 11** school, district, or state meetings
- 11** conference presentations
- 7** training webinars for PD providers
- 6** conference exhibit booths
- 1** doctoral scholar/early-career faculty workshop

### Others Recommend Us

- 5,075** websites link to IRIS (21% increase over 2023)
- 100** peer-reviewed journal citations
- 99** citations in dissertations
- 49** citations in books

## FUN FACT

People aren't searching for just *any* online resources, they're searching for IRIS resources.

7 of the top 10 Google searches that bring people to the IRIS website contain the word *IRIS*.

- » iris center
- » iris modules
- » iris
- » iris center modules
- » iris peabody
- » iris vanderbilt
- » iris module

