IRIS CENTER

IRIS Center Professional Development Personalized Learning

What Is IRIS?

IRIS develops and disseminates free online resources about evidence-based instructional and behavioral practices. Intended for use in personnel preparation and professional development (PD), these instructional resources are designed to help current and future educators improve the learning and behavioral outcomes of all students, especially struggling learners and those with disabilities.

Trusted & Reliable

IRIS resources are frequently cited in research articles, newsletters, and online publications as reputable sources of information about evidence-based practices (EBPs).

How Can IRIS Resources Benefit K–12 Educators & School Districts?

The IRIS Center's web-based professional learning resources are designed to facilitate professional growth at either the district or the building level. Our resources—which include modules, case studies, activities, information briefs, and video vignettes—are the perfect way to provide flexible, accessible, and timely PD. Moreover, these resources:

» Allow for sustained PD

» Are appropriate for every educator, including K–12 general and special education teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, and other support staff (e.g., substitutes, bus drivers, hallway/cafeteria monitors)

» Allow for flexible use to meet the specific needs and interests of individual educators

» Are accessible anywhere at any time and can be completed at the individual educator's preferred pace

» Cover numerous topics relevant to today's educators in a way that is in-depth but approachable

» Focus on evidence-based instructional and behavioral practices as well as data-based decision-making

» Can be used in face-to-face PD, collaborative settings, or professional learning communities (PLCs)

All our free resources can be accessed at iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu.

How Do IRIS Modules Align with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)?

Our signature resource, the IRIS *STAR Legacy* Modules:

» Allow self-guided, self-paced individualized learning

» Are grounded in adult learning theory

» Are carefully scaffolded to provide in-depth knowledge through engaging interactive content

» Incorporate an inquiry-based approach to promote a fuller understanding of classroom issues and challenges

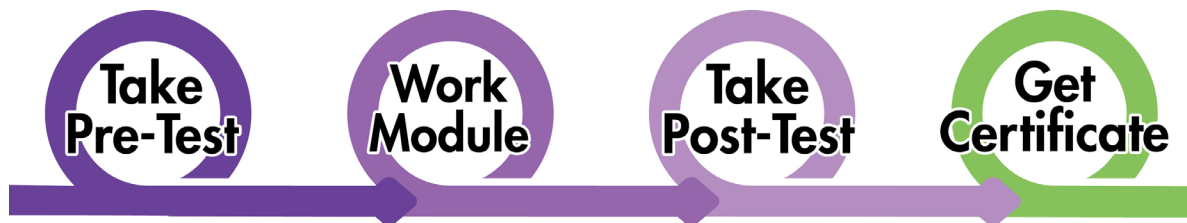» Are consistently proven to be effective in increasing the awareness, knowledge, and skills of adult learners

IRIS Modules can be used to improve educators' knowledge of:

› Evidence-based instructional and behavioral practices
› IEPs
› Accommodations
› Teaching English learners
› Instructional supports for students with disabilities
› Collaborating with families
› Differentiated instruction
› Universal Design for Learning
› Hiring and retaining teachers
› And more

Free PD Certificates

Through December 2025, the IRIS Center will offer FREE certificates to verify module completion and effort toward PD hours. Practical, flexible, and built around trustworthy resources, IRIS online PD Certificates are a terrific option for individual educators who are ready to take their professional development to the next level. Even better, IRIS Modules can be accessed anytime, anywhere, via any online-enabled tablet, phone, or computer.

iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/pd-hours/earn-pd-hours

Take Pre-Test → Work Module → Take Post-Test → Get Certificate

Affordable School & District PD Platform: IRIS+

In addition to the free options above, our IRIS+ School & District Platform is an affordable and intuitive tool that enables school leaders to manage and support the professional growth of teachers, paraprofessionals, and staff. This user-friendly learning management system offers features to optimize content delivery and maximize learning. More specifically, it allows school leaders to:

» Customize professional learning to target areas of focus

» Organize your school or district's professional development in one convenient, user-friendly online hub

» Easily assign and monitor IRIS Module use for large numbers of staff

» Track and monitor IRIS Module post-test results

» Send reminder emails to individuals or groups of educators

» Track the amount of time educators spend working on a module

» Sort and filter results

» Export and preserve data for accountability purposes

For more information—and to begin your IRIS+ professional development journey—
email us at iris@vanderbilt.edu or give us a call at 1-800-831-6134.