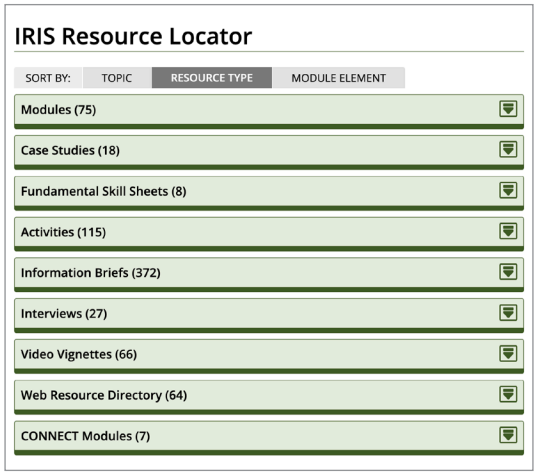
IRIS CENTER Top Tips for PD Providers

IRIS resources are freely available for use in professional development trainings. This handout offers tips for how to use them in your trainings.

IRIS Resource Locator

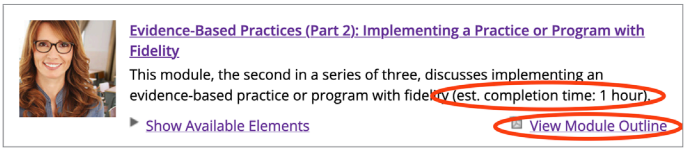
- Explain the purpose of IRIS—to provide educators with evidence-based practices (EBPs) and frameworks for teaching all students, especially struggling learners and those with disabilities.
- Emphasize that resources have been developed and reviewed by experts in the field.
- Show or assign the "**Navigating the IRIS Resource Locator**" video.
- Note that students can narrow searches in the IRIS Resource Locator by topic area or resource type (e.g., modules, fundamental skills sheets, case studies).
- Inform educators that they can use IRIS resources throughout their careers.



STAR Legacy Modules

- Explain the five-component cycle. Show the "**Navigating an IRIS *STAR Legacy* Module**" video or work through a module together.

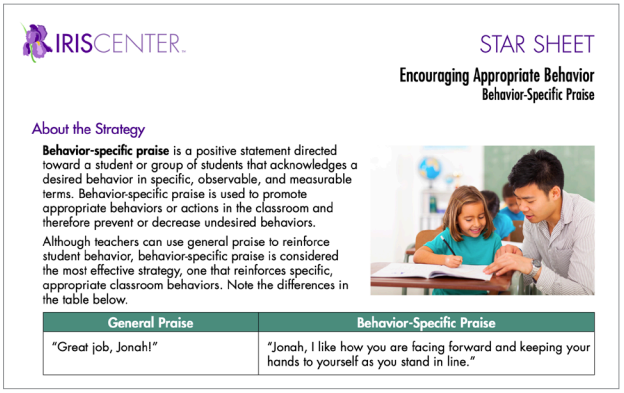
- Highlight the estimated completion time and use of the Module Outline to preview content or take notes.



- Demonstrate closed caption and transcript options for videos and audios.
- Show the Challenge video to activate prior knowledge or discuss the Initial Thoughts questions in whole or small groups to identify misconceptions.
- Have educators complete the Revisiting Initial Thoughts questions on the Wrap Up to compare their current thoughts to their initial thoughts.
- Ask educators to complete the Perspectives and Resources pages on their own or with partners or in small groups.
- Adapt the Assessment questions to fit the needs of the school or district, add them to your learning management platform, or discuss them in large or small groups.
- Alternately, have educators write reflections on what they learned and how they will apply that knowledge in their own classrooms.

Case Studies

- Ask participants to review STAR Sheets in preparation for the PD training.
- Assign partners to find three take-away ideas from the STAR Sheets.
- Complete a Level A case with the whole group; assign Level B or C cases to small groups or as independent work based on educators' levels of experience or expertise.
- Use case studies or STAR Sheets to problem-solve real-life classroom challenges.


IRIS CENTER

STAR SHEET

Encouraging Appropriate Behavior
Behavior-Specific Praise

About the Strategy

Behavior-specific praise is a positive statement directed toward a student or group of students that acknowledges a desired behavior in specific, observable, and measurable terms. Behavior-specific praise is used to promote appropriate behaviors or actions in the classroom and therefore prevent or decrease undesired behaviors.

Although teachers can use general praise to reinforce student behavior, behavior-specific praise is considered the most effective strategy, one that reinforces specific, appropriate classroom behaviors. Note the differences in the table below.

General Praise	Behavior-Specific Praise
"Great job, Jonah!"	"Jonah, I like how you are facing forward and keeping your hands to yourself as you stand in line."

Fundamental Skill Sheets, Activities, Interviews, & More

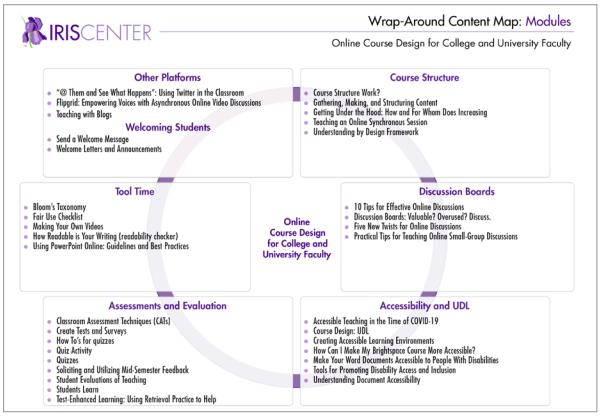
- Use IRIS Fundamental Skill Sheets when onboarding professionals and other school staff or with experienced educators to demonstrate implementation of EBPs.
- Assign IRIS Activities so educators can practice new skills and concepts.
- Use IRIS Interviews to introduce educators to nationally recognized experts.
- Use Video Vignettes to show implementation of EBPs and promote awareness of individuals with disabilities and their families.
- Use Information Briefs to direct educators to information from other trusted sources.
- Have educators use the **Film Tool** and **Children's Book Tool** to learn more about media portrayals of disability.

IRIS Online Tools

- Encourage students to use the **IRIS Glossary** to learn education and disability related terms and show them that glossary terms are hyperlinked in modules.
- Demonstrate how to access the **IRIS High-Leverage Practices Alignment Tool** to identify the four HLP topic areas and find resources that address each of them.

Resources for PD Providers

- Use **Wrap-Around Content Maps** to extend and deepen the information included in IRIS Modules and Case Studies.
- Utilize the **PD Planning Forms** to record IRIS resources you selected for PD activities.
- View the **Sample Professional Development Activity Collection** for examples of how to integrate IRIS resources about EBPs into PD activities.
- Use the **PD Facilitator's Guide Template** and accompanying handouts as you develop training sessions.



Professional Development Options & Resources

- Explore the **Learning Pathways** page for examples of how districts have bundled IRIS resources to support their educators in high-need topics.
- Connect with IRIS Staff to develop customized Learning Pathways that address your school or district's specific needs.
- Let educators know they can receive PD Certificates for completing modules. Make sure these are accepted by your district or state.
- Connect with IRIS Staff to receive specialized training on IRIS resources.

Additional Tips

- Demonstrate Website accessibility features.
- Encourage educators to provide feedback using the Module Feedback Form link located throughout a module.
- Return often to **New & Coming Soon** to learn about revised and upcoming IRIS resources.
- **Join our e-newsletter** to be notified of new and revised resources.
- For more tips, visit **https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/resources/pd-providers/tips/**

Visit Us! iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu • iriscenter.com

Contact Us! iris@vanderbilt.edu • IRIS: 1-800-831-6134 • PD Help Line: 866-626-4747

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IDEAs that Work U.S. Office of Special Education Programs

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