

Key Topics for New Special Education Teacher Professional Development

New special education teachers may need professional development in a wide range of areas including but not limited to:

Area	Examples
Content areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing content standards • Teaching reading • SDI
Disability specific topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional needs of students with learning disabilities • Characteristics of specific disabilities
Co-teaching and collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing relationships • Instructional structures • Incorporating SDI • Collaborating with related service providers
Teaching strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence-based strategies for working with students with disabilities • Monitoring and recording student progress and using the data to drive instructional decisions
Use of technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistive technology / AAC • Tech tools to enhance instruction
Paperwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition planning • IEP development and team process timelines • Caseload management • Time Management
Paraprofessionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervising paraprofessionals • Collaborating with support staff
Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to engage families and caregivers • Communicating student progress • Addressing disagreements
Behavior management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEL Strategies • Positive behavior support • Classroom management • Collaborative Problem Solving • Functional behavior assessments • De-escalation Techniques
IEP Team Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation and Report Writing • Eligibility Guidelines • IEP Development • Progress Monitoring