

# MN Relicensure Package #1 (125 Hours)



The MN Relicensure Package #1 includes 24 self-study courses (5 or 10 hours each) for a total **125 hours of PD**. This package includes the requirements for cultural competency, mental health, PBIS, reading instruction, suicide prevention, ELL, and accommodation, modification, and adaption.

- Accommodating All Learners
- Assistive Communication for Every Classroom
- Classroom Management for Positive Behaviors
- Cognitive Skills – Understanding Learning Challenges
- Cultural Competency and Reflective Teaching
- Differentiation for Gifted Learners in the Classroom
- English Language Learners in the Classroom
- Enhancing Instruction through Standards
- Ethics for Education Professionals
- Formative Assessment
- Internet Safety in a Connected World
- Introduction to Autism
- Introduction to Technology
- iPads in the Classroom
- Raising Academic Achievement through Standards
- Reading Across the Curriculum
- Recognition of Early-onset Mental Health Illness in Children & Adolescents
- Standards-based Instruction through STEM
- Student Portfolios
- Student-centered Learning
- Suicide Prevention
- Tackling Tough Text
- Technology in the 21st Century Classroom
- Understanding ADHD

# Accommodating All Learners



## *Accommodation, Modification, and Adaption Requirement*

### Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Reach and teach all learners by examining 21st century student and educator strengths in this research-based course packed with strategies, resources, and tools. Participants will gain insight into both their own learning and teaching preferences as well as the learning styles of students.

Closely aligned with national standards and pedagogical goals, this course addresses accommodation, modification, and adaptation of curriculum, materials, and instruction to appropriately meet the needs of varied students in achieving graduation standards (i.e., differentiated instruction).



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# Accommodating All Learners

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Every Learner Learning

- Teaching and learning
- Accommodating all learners
- About the brain
- Introduction to learning styles
- Teacher as a learner
- The Paragon Learning Style Inventory (PLSI)

### LESSON 2: Who Are Our Students? Teaching Across Types

- Characteristics of today's youth
- Aspects of physical and cognitive access to the general curriculum
- Academic learning styles and students' skill development as it aligns with age
- The concept of perception and differences in perception
- How to build a win-win pedagogy based on the 5 principles
- Strategies to employ when the teacher's learning style conflicts with students' styles
- Thinking styles

### LESSON 3: Technology

- Media as a flexible tool to reach all learners
- Recent research on technology and traditional models of delivery
- Traditional media versus digital media
- Digital media and how it can be used to customize materials and methods
- Technology timeline

### LESSON 4: Theories and Strategies

- Components of multiple intelligences
- Activities to develop each type of intelligence
- Bloom's taxonomy, differentiated instruction, and informal learning
- Hemisphericity and activities that can stimulate both left and right sides of the brain
- The 4-quadrant model



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# Assistive Communication for Every Classroom



## Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content and Planning for Instruction.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content and Teachers Facilitate Learning.

Students with disabilities face many communication challenges. Combined with possible physical and cognitive disabilities, learning can be compromised. As teachers, it is important to help students with disabilities overcome difficulties to attain and maximize potential in the classroom.

In this course, teachers are introduced to available Assistive Communication techniques and tools. Teachers gain an understanding of high-tech and low-tech assistive devices and learn how to incorporate them into a classroom. The tools, strategies, and templates provided in this course help teachers create an inclusive classroom and positive learning environment for students with disabilities.



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# Assistive Communication for Every Classroom

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Introduction to Assistive Communication

- Defining Assistive Communication and exploring its benefits and function
- Identifying the laws advocating for and supporting the use of Assistive Technology
- Understanding Assistive Communication, its purpose, and the three types of Assistive Communication devices used in the classroom
- Identifying the four categories of Assistive Communication Technologies

### LESSON 2: Low-Tech Strategies for Communication

- Exploring the six phases of the Picture Exchange Communication System method and its application
- Understanding American Sign Language and its use in the classroom
- Practical application of the Picture Exchange Communication board and Topic rings/wallets in the classroom
- Identifying the four main types of Communication cards effective in the classroom

### LESSON 3: High-Tech Strategies for Communication

- Exploring the different high-tech strategies and their uses for improving communication and learning in the classroom
- Computer modifications and adaptations enabling students with disabilities to achieve academic excellence
- Practical application of the devices with regard to Physical, Visual, Communication and Learning disabilities
- Identifying the smartphone applications that can enable communication

### LESSON 4: Implementing Assistive and Alternative Communication in Classrooms

- Understanding the role of the teacher and the Assistive Communication team with regard to Assistive and Alternative communication
- Exploring the process of implementation and classroom observations of Assistive and Alternative Communication in the classrooms
- Defining the Multi-modal approach to communication and the three Levels of communication
- Exploring the strategies aiding and facilitating communication, group work, assessment, and homework



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# Classroom Management for Positive Behaviors



## *Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies (PBIS) Requirement*

### Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Students from all backgrounds, temperaments, and abilities should have access to a classroom ambience that is conducive to their learning. Positive Behavior Management helps educators transform challenging behavior, systemically and individually, to create such an environment.

Learn evidence-based Positive Behavior Intervention Solutions (PBIS) practices to identify and eliminate triggers in the classroom, encourage positive behaviors, and give students individualized care and support.

This proactive PBIS approach, with three tiers of interventions, can strengthen students' relationships, improve their communication skill, and circumvent conflict.



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# Classroom Management for Positive Behaviors

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: A Positive Classroom Climate

- What is PBIS and why teach positive behaviors?
- Behavior management and social skills
- Instructional and environmental management
- Parent support and the three-tier framework

### LESSON 2: Primary Prevention

- What is primary prevention?
- Guidelines
- Behavior management strategies
- Basic teaching approach

### LESSON 3: Secondary Prevention

- Eligibility
- Features
- Identifying students
- Secondary interventions

### LESSON 4: Tertiary Prevention

- Selection of students
- Implementation strategies
- Parental involvement



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# Cognitive Skills - Understanding Learning Challenges



## Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

The U.S. Department of Education and others indicate that weak cognitive skills are the source of over 80% of learning problems.

Students approach each task with varying learning tools, called cognitive skills, and these skills determine the quality, speed, and ease with which individuals learn and perform.

This course provides methods for detecting students with weak cognitive skills and tools to strengthen those skills. Teachers will receive understanding, as well as ways to apply development techniques in the classroom. This fun and interactive course includes information about new brain research and how it can impact today's classrooms.



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# Cognitive Skills - Understanding Learning Challenges

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Introduction

- Unlocking your students' complete learning potential
- The prevalence of learning challenges and the need for effective special education
- The crucial role of teachers and schools in maximizing educational impact
- The importance of cognitive skills for successful living

### LESSON 2: Testing

- How tests are administered and interpreted
- The two main types of tests and their different goals
- The role of IQ scores and phonemic awareness
- Common contemporary approaches to diagnosed learning issues and the significance of cognitive skills in making a lasting impact on students' learning

### LESSON 3: Cognitive Skills

- Understanding the nature of student learning and the role cognitive skills play in it
- Identifying and accurately assessing cognitive weaknesses
- The features and significance of specific cognitive skills
- The inter-connected nature of skills and specific abilities closely associated with cognitive growth

### LESSON 4: The Brain

- Contemporary research on the functioning of the brain
- The role and nature of attention and memory in the learning process
- Understanding dyslexia and effective approaches to it
- The significance of parental involvement and the need for practice

### LESSON 5: Effective Training

- The role of the brain in laying essential foundations for learning
- Specific methods to build and strengthen cognitive skills
- The need for effective cognitive training to be non-academic in nature



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# Cultural Competency and Reflective Teaching



## *Cultural Competency Requirement*

### Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments and Planning for Instruction.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, and Diverse Learners.

This course demonstrates responsive teaching in the classroom by helping teachers consider and build competence in meeting the many learning needs of all students. Learn how to build culturally diverse classrooms that are sensitive and equitable to learners across languages, genders, religions, cultural backgrounds, and special needs.

Teachers will also reflect on their teaching practice and interactions while considering ways they can grow.



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Quizzes

# Cultural Competency and Reflective Teaching

## Course Outline

### SECTION A: Cultural Competency and Responsive Teaching

#### LESSON 1: Cultural Competency

- Defining culture and cultural competency
- Cultural beliefs and values
- Impact of culture on behavior

#### LESSON 2: Bias

- Definition, types, and identification of bias
- Assumptions, perspectives, and self-perceptions

#### LESSON 3: Culturally Responsive Classrooms

- Impact of culture on teaching and learning
- Brain roles in learning
- Teaching styles and student impact
- Building rapport with students

#### LESSON 4: Culturally Responsive Teaching

- Diversity in the classroom
- Understanding diversity: origin, religion, gender, language, special needs, and mental health
- Cohesive classrooms and school communities
- Collaborating with families

*Designed to meet state requirements for cultural competency and responsiveness training. Including but not limited to all of the following topics: racial, cultural, and socioeconomic groups; American Indian and Alaskan native students; religion; systemic racism; gender identity, including transgender students; sexual orientation; language diversity; and individuals with disabilities and mental health concerns while deepening teachers' understanding of their own frames of reference, the potential bias in these frames, and their impact on expectations for and relationships with students, students' families, and the school communities.*



# Cultural Competency and Reflective Teaching

## Course Outline

### SECTION B: Reflective Teaching Practice

#### LESSON 1: Introduction

- Need for reflection
- Critical attributes and attitudes of a reflective teacher
- Types of reflection
- Circle of reflection
- Levels of reflective thinking
- Are you a reflective teacher?

#### LESSON 2: Reflective Thinking and Application

- Developing reflective practice
- Factors that influence reflection
- Applying reflection in practice using strategies such as reframing classroom situations, action research, learning journals, logs, diaries, teaching portfolios, autobiographical narratives, storytelling, critical incident analysis, and self-observation

#### LESSON 3: Opportunities for Professional Growth

- Characteristics and types of job-embedded professional development
- Practicing collaborative learning using various strategies like mentoring, peer observation, coaching, and so on
- Building effective Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Enhancing traditional professional development through classroom visitation, conferences, learning study, examining student work, and workshops

#### LESSON 4: Professional Development Plan

- Principles of PDP
- Professional development cycle
- Elements of PDP
- Step-by-step guide to write a PDP



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# English Language Learners in the Classroom



## ELL Requirement

### Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Facilitate optimal learning in the classroom by helping English Language Learners feel validated. This course includes a range of strategies and activities that lead to interactions which benefit the four language skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

The Sheltered Instruction (SI) model is presented along with ways to apply this model when teaching English Language Learners. The importance of working collaboratively and ensuring the involvement of parents to enhance learning is emphasized with corresponding strategies. Through a range of research-based findings, teachers are equipped to engage students in “higher order thinking skills” and design a sufficiently challenging curriculum.



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# English Language Learners in the Classroom

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Welcoming English Language Learners

- Create an environment of acceptance
- Understand the backgrounds of English Language Learners
- Establishing an open channel of communication with parents

### LESSON 2: Accommodating a New Culture

- Identify the educational needs of English Language Learners
- Avoiding assumptions
- Conversational and cross-cultural skills
- Comparing cultures and value systems

### LESSON 3: Collaboration and Connection

- Approaches for mainstream teachers to effectively serve English Language Learners
- The Sheltered Instruction (SI) model
- Four language skill areas

### LESSON 4: Curriculum and Lessons

- Engaging students in “higher order thinking skills” (HOTS)
- Methods of simplification and expansion



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# Enhancing Instruction through Standards



## Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Explore practical ways to integrate the Standards into your classroom instruction and enhance student learning experiences. This course provides an insight into the roles of teachers and students in the implementation of standards by integration of proven strategies like collaborative learning, differentiated instruction, and technology.

This course is filled with resources, ideas, and techniques to test the will and the skills of every school leader and teacher, so that every student receives consistent, high-quality instruction. Teachers are provided with instructional strategies to handle the different forms of negative behavior that surface in the classroom.



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# Enhancing Instruction through Standards

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Understanding Standards

- Introduction to standards
- Integration of differentiated instruction, in response to student readiness
- Incorporation of the four models of blending learning: rotation model, flex model, a la carte model and enriched virtual model

### LESSON 2: School-wide Instructional Changes

- Requirements of the standards for students leaving high school
- Analysis of the literacy components such as reading, writing, speaking & listening, and language
- Making mathematics practical with the collaboration of standards of mathematics
- School-wide steps to implement Standards in mathematics, English, and language arts
- Using extended school days, an extended school year, after-school tutoring, and multi-tiered interventions to meet the rigors of the standards

### LESSON 3: Classroom Instructional Strategies

- Classroom instructional strategies that help teachers meet the standards
- Examining techniques to help students interact successfully with new knowledge
- Approaches to hypothesis generation and testing
- Application of classroom understanding to real world problems
- Ways to establish and maintain effective relationships with students

### LESSON 4: Standards-based Behavior Management

- Role of teachers as behavior managers, to reinforce class-wide behavioral standards
- Understanding on-task and off-task behaviors
- Application of Response to Intervention (RTI) model
- Classroom management plan that summarizes the important routines, procedures, and consequences
- Ideas and techniques to make learning an ongoing, dynamic, and enjoyable process



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# Ethics for Education Professionals



## Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners and Teachers Know Content.

It's easy for boundaries to become blurred. Things that previously may have been black and white are now gray. Where do we draw the lines?

Even though most people believe that their actions are guided by logic and reason, we all have an innate ethical sense that urges us to make predictable choices. Ethics education is about recognizing our own innate ethical sense and how it influences our behavior.

By stepping inside this course and through reflection and introspection, you'll discover a clearer understanding of the innate ethical self. You'll find tools and tips for bringing high standards of ethics into school and a variety of topics to explore practical ways of addressing ethical decisions.



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# Ethics for Education Professionals

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Ethics in School

- Examining morals, ethics, and laws while understanding subtle differences between them
- Insight on schools of thought and ethical models
- Professionalism and how it applies to teachers
- Reviewing basic ethical practices

### LESSON 2: Ethical Boundaries

- Types of boundaries and establishing boundaries through communication, both verbal and non-verbal
- Transference
- Insight on challenging ethical issues, including excessive thinking, jealousy, and inappropriate relationships, as well as how these may be avoided

### LESSON 3: Ethical Behaviors

- Professional habits, including the infusion of modesty, fidelity, and civility
- Understanding appropriate behavior, including touch and conversation
- Practical strategies that can be used to maintain positive professional relationships with students, colleagues, and parents
- Virtues and traits that are the cornerstone for every professional teacher

### LESSON 4: Ethics in Practice

- A framework for making ethical decisions in the context of the classroom and school
- Strategies to promote school-wide ethical practice, including mentoring, PD, ethical committee, ethical code of conduct, and an honor code.



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# Formative Assessment



## Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Formative assessments allow teachers to respond to a student's needs quickly, and, even more importantly, allows the student to shape instruction. Effective formative assessments result in instruction that meets the needs of each student.

In this innovative online course, teachers learn about and implement formative assessments. Discover and demonstrate for yourself, your students, and your community what happens when students are truly learning.



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# Formative Assessment

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: The Essentials

- Concepts behind and purpose of formative assessment
- Practical strategies that may be used to implement formative assessment
- Commonly used formative assessments, including teacher observation, questioning, rubrics, essays, and peer assessment
- Benefits of each strategy and how they can be used effectively

### LESSON 2: Nuts and Bolts

- The process of formative assessment
- Concepts behind goal mastery
- The importance of feedback, reports, visual depiction, and celebration in formative assessment
- Designing lesson plans that integrate formative assessment

### LESSON 3: Making Connections

- The role of assessment in standards-based education
- Formative and summative assessments, and the difference between the two



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# Internet Safety in a Connected World



## Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learning Environments and Planning for Instruction.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Technology has become an integral part of our lives, but it also presents risks - especially for children.

In this course, teachers learn about the different kinds of online threats and how they can protect themselves and their students. The course includes:

- Social media
- Texting
- Video games
- Cyberbullying
- Online predators
- Tips & tools for protecting children online
- And more....



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# Internet Safety in a Connected World

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Connecting on the Internet

- Social media
- Features and red flags of social media
- Posting and viewing photographs and videos safely
- Smart watches

### LESSON 2: The Internet in Daily Life

- Diverse means of electronic communication
- Gaming and virtual worlds
- E-commerce and digital footprints
- Existing dangers
- Interactive scenarios:
- Handling peer pressure and secure chatting options

### LESSON 3: Downloading from the Internet

- Shielding unauthorized copying and piracy
- Sending out files
- Plagiarism
- Software that harms computers and guidelines to prevent this

### LESSON 4: Staying Safe on the Internet

- Online predators and their behaviors – grooming and gifting
- Cyberbullying: forms and effects
- Monitoring software and parental controls with usage agreements
- Reporting online crimes, gathering evidence, and calling for help



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# Introduction to Autism



## Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Application of Content, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content and Teachers Facilitate Learning.

Most of us know someone with autism. This neurodevelopmental condition impacts a student's ability to communicate, form social skills, and manage sensory challenges. Autism often affects a student's academic potential and learning style in the classroom. A person with autism may experience a unique way of thinking, remembering events, reacting, and communicating.

In this course, educators will find tried and tested strategies, tips, real-life examples, and insights to create more inclusive classrooms and help students on the autism spectrum thrive.



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# Introduction to Autism

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Overview

- Definition
- Symptoms and other similar conditions
- Therapies
- Labeling neurodevelopmental disorders
- The brain in Autism Spectrum Disorder

### LESSON 2: Social Skills in ASD

- Social skills and related challenges.
- Theory of the mind
- Teaching non-verbal learners
- Verbal processing, echolalia, perseveration, and scripting
- Abstract language, eye contact, empathy, spatial terms, and pronouns

### LESSON 3: Expressions of Autism

- Sensory hyposensitivity and hypersensitivity
- Splintered development, perseveration, and stress
- Part-to-whole or whole-to-part thinking
- The lack of social motivation and imagination in children with ASD
- Extraordinary abilities

### LESSON 4: ASD in School

- Neurological differences in children with ASD
- Central Coherence Theory
- Classroom physical environment
- Teaching materials and strategies
- Behavior management strategies
- Working with parents and team



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# Introduction to Technology



## Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

This course introduces and examines technology for educators teaching in a variety of contexts, including in-person, online, and hybrid.

You will develop a better understanding of how to use technology tools and resources to increase engagement in learning and enhance your instructional practices. Tutorials and tips demonstrate applications and guide teachers in improving tech skills and gaining confidence in use.



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# Introduction to Technology

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Technology Basics

- Computer basics
- Email
- Benefits and harmful effects of technology
- Devices and gadgets for the classroom

### LESSON 2: Platforms and Providers

- Spreadsheets and Word processing
- Presentation software
- Organization using cloud-based storage applications

### LESSON 3: Interactive Technology

- Digital scavenger hunts
- Interactive quizzes and activities
- Design tools

### LESSON 4: Types and Models of Learning

- Flipped and hybrid classrooms
- Learning Management Systems (LMS)
- Webinars and video conferencing tools



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# iPads in the Classroom



## Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

This introductory tech course explores different ways the iPad can be integrated into the learning process.

In addition to practical learning activities and ideas, this course helps teachers:

- Find and use teaching apps
- Organize iPad activities in the classroom
- Set up the classroom environment to encourage efficient iPad use
- Manage iPad maintenance
- Use iPads to teach and practice skills, including communicating, collaborating, connecting, creating, and critical thinking



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# iPads in the Classroom

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Introduction

- Understanding the role and limitations of iPads in education
- Exploring how iPads can be used to develop essential skills
- Identifying traits of automation, transformation, and pioneering
- Importance of developing a smooth workflow, learning flow, and fluency

### LESSON 2: iPads as A Teaching and Learning Tool

- Understanding the importance of integrating iPads into the classroom
- Examining iPads as an effective tool in fulfilling essential teaching functions, from routine tasks, to curating information
- The ability of iPads to promote student learning through differentiation, personalization, and ultimate enhancement of individual learning

### LESSON 3: iPads and Basic Classroom Management

- The features, advantages, and challenges of the different types of iPad distribution
- Considerations and importance of creating a classroom management plan to facilitate smooth iPad integration into the learning process
- Creating appropriate class rules, securing students' focus, implementing procedures, setting expectations, and keeping the use of iPad in focus

### LESSON 4: Ten 'Must Have' Types of Apps

- Identifying useful apps that support common functions like presentations, screen casting and note taking in the classroom
- Exploring practical ways to integrate apps into lessons



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# Raising Academic Achievement through Standards



## Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

In the past, students who were failing were often sent for special education services whether or not they really needed it. However, the education system today aims to help all students succeed in the general educational setting. In such a setting, teachers play a critical role in identifying those who are struggling to learn and succeed in academics and intervening with help.

This course provides educators with information about academic interventions that can be incorporated in the classroom through frameworks — such as the RTI — or even in the absence of such structures.



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# Raising Academic Achievement through Standards

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Standards and Academic Interventions

- Standards in education
- Differentiating between core instruction, accommodations, modifications, and interventions
- Academic interventions, classroom intervention plans, and understanding warning signals of students at risk

### LESSON 2: Response to Intervention

- Response to Intervention (RTI)
- Connecting RTI and the standards
- Essential components of RTI
- Tiered interventions
- Challenges when implementing RTI

### LESSON 3: Literacy Interventions

- Importance of literacy skills
- Problems students face in literacy
- Standards in English Language Arts/Literacy
- Academic interventions for struggling readers
- Academic interventions for students struggling with writing skills

### LESSON 4: Math Interventions

- Importance of math
- Problems students face
- Standards in math
- RTI and math
- Specific interventions for improving math skills



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# Reading Across the Curriculum



## Reading Instruction Requirement

### Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Reading is an essential component of learning. Often, when students struggle with a specific subject matter it is because of poor reading instruction and underdeveloped reading skills.

Full of research-based reading instruction techniques, this course can be used across all content areas and grade levels to improve student achievement. Teacher learn new ideas for motivating students to read more and improve reading comprehension.

This course provides tools, exercises, and additional resources that you can use to practice new skills. Dive into the world of reading instruction and get geared up to make your students proficient readers.



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# Reading Across the Curriculum

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Research

- The importance and nature of the 'reading' skill
- Language development in the early years
- Implications of different levels of daily language exposure
- How the brain processes what we already know and have experienced to develop reading skills

### LESSON 2: Reading Assessments

- Diversity of students' reading abilities
- The purpose of reading assessments and components
- Common reading assessments and their usage
- Cloze and CARL to measure reading performance

### LESSON 3: Basic Reading Strategies

- Basic reading strategies and accessing results
- Essential elements and traditional lesson formats
- Pre-reading, the reading process, and post-reading
- Effective ways to extend the life of the text beyond the lesson

### LESSON 4: Reading Across Content Areas

- Scaffolding a common textbook to support varying reading levels using four steps
- Using different books on a common topic or learning objective to meet differing needs
- Question-Answer Relationships (QARS)
- Effectively approaching different structures of texts



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# Recognition of Early-onset Mental Health Illness in Children & Adolescents



## *Mental Health Requirement*

### Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners and Teachers Know Content.

As educators, we are often the first to notice that a child may be experiencing problems.

Through this course, teachers develop a basic understanding of key warning signs of early-onset mental illness in children and adolescents. This knowledge strengthens teacher-parent communications and supports professional teaching and learning.



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# Recognition of Early-onset Mental Health Illness in Children & Adolescents

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Introduction to Mental Illnesses

- An overview of the prevalence, nature, causes, and experience of mental illnesses
- Understanding effective treatments and the role and limitations of medication
- The application of behavioral therapy and other creative therapies under the umbrella of Cognitive Behavior Therapy to target the root of the problem
- The stigma associated with mental illnesses and ways to combat it
- The educational implications of the evaluation and treatment of mental illnesses

### LESSON 2: ADHD, ODD, and Anxiety in the Classroom

- Understanding the manifestations of ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder) in the classroom and ways to manage behavior effectively in this context
- The common signs, treatments, and classroom strategies to deal with ODD (Oppositional Defiant Disorder) and CD (Conduct Disorder)
- The various subtypes within Anxiety Disorders, their treatment, and classroom applications

### LESSON 3: Other Mental Health Conditions in Children

- Symptoms and warning signs of OCD, Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder, PTSD, etc.
- Treatments
- Classroom applications and strategies

### LESSON 4: The Team

- Working with parents
- The role of mental health professionals
- The IEP process
- Understanding assessments and assignments



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# Standards-based Instruction through STEM



## Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

STEM integration doesn't need a huge budget, lots of technology, or a ready-to-use curriculum. It's something any teacher, any school, and any classroom can integrate.

No one knows your students better than you. That's why this course is designed to equip and encourage you to integrate STEM education into your classrooms in ways that you think are most suitable for your students. You will learn how to plan your classroom set-up, design your own STEM curriculum, and integrate standards.

STEM education is not just about doing what's "cool." It is essential that students learn how to apply what they learn in real life situations and across different subjects.



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# Standards-based Instruction through STEM

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Introduction

- Definition of STEM
- Need for STEM
- Three STEM program attributes and five different STEM program models

### LESSON 2: Setting Up for STEM

- Characteristics of STEM students and teachers
- Understanding STEM in the context of Math and Science
- Integrating STEM into any classroom
- Choosing appropriate STEM material and curriculum

### LESSON 3: STEM Standards and Assessments

- Shared standards that are internationally benchmarked
- Challenges and benefits of successful STEM assessments
- Assessments for elementary, middle, and high school classrooms
- Benefits, opportunities, and challenges of STEM integration

### LESSON 4: Designing STEM PK-12 Curriculum

- Integrating STEM into elementary, middle, and high-school classrooms
- Designing STEM instruction for the year
- Writing individual STEM units using science, math, technology, and literacy standards
- Implementing effective lessons in the classroom



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# Student-centered Learning



## Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Teachers committed to student development look forward to lively, stimulating, and effective learning environments where their students are self-motivated, able to build on what they already know, and equipped for the real-world.

The student-centered learning approach provides a fitting framework for designing a classroom that shifts focus from the basic implementation of standardized curriculum and assignments to a more creative, organic facilitation of subject content and student activity.

This course presents resources, research-validated strategies, and practical examples to equip teachers with the necessary toolkit to seamlessly turn their classrooms into student-centered environments.



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# Student-centered Learning

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Introduction

- Meaning, characteristics, and principles of Student-centered Learning
- Comparison between teacher-led and student-centered approaches
- Dispelling myths regarding student-centered classrooms
- Student-centered learning and the standards

### LESSON 2: Setting Objectives and Providing Feedback in the SCL Classroom

- Developing student-centered learning objectives
- Facets of understanding
- Staying on track through learning logs
- Assessment and feedback techniques

### LESSON 3: SCL Strategies for the Classroom

- Understanding the teacher's role in a student-centered classroom
- Teaching and learning methods
- Ensuring student motivation
- Classroom strategies for integrating SCL techniques

### LESSON 4: Setting up for Success

- Potential of technology in key areas of learning
- Tools that enhance learning in student-centered classrooms
- Getting parents involved in learning
- Extending learning opportunities outside of school hours



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# Student Portfolios



## Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Successfully integrate portfolios to enhance student development and become an essential part of teaching and learning.

The practical tips and suggestions provided in this course will take teachers through the process of implementing portfolios in their classrooms. The resources included show teachers how to capitalize on a student's natural tendency to save work, get them to take a second look, and critically analyze how they can improve future work.

Rich in examples, suggestions, and tips for teachers, this course aims to enhance the teaching and learning experience for students.



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# Student Portfolios

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Process and Benefits

- Research on student portfolios
- Portfolio benefits and their contribution to learning
- Characteristics of the portfolio process
- Adding power to portfolios with parents as mentors
- Logistics and management of both paper and digital student portfolios

### LESSON 2: Types of Portfolios

- In-depth analysis of the types of student portfolios
- Primary stages of the process, working and showcasing portfolios
- Examining the role of teachers as 'portfolio advisors'
- Potential challenges of the portfolio process, and practical tips to overcome them

### LESSON 3: Digital Portfolios

- Digital portfolios and their 21st century relevance
- Types of digital portfolios and their practical implementation
- A systems approach to planning an impressive portfolio
- Examining the key aspects of effective implementation of digital portfolios
- Web tools to help students create digital portfolios

### LESSON 4: Portfolio Assessment

- Benefits of portfolio assessment for both students and teachers
- Formative versus summative assessment of student work
- Implementing a scoring system with rubrics, presenting results
- Brief overview of the assessment process, focus, and criterion
- Considerations for portfolio assessment



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# Suicide Prevention



## Suicide Prevention Requirement

### Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences and Learning Environments.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership and Diverse Learners

This course looks at the important role teachers play in suicide prevention.

Learning the warning signs of suicide may help teachers recognize which students could be at risk for suicide.

Discover ways in which teachers might collaborate with the school and the greater community to help create and maintain safer environments.

*This course integrates the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's research and materials in collaboration with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.*



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# Suicide Prevention

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Introduction

- Suicide: myths and truths
- Role of mental health
- Suicide warning signs
- Interventions & treatments

### LESSON 2: Resilience

- Adolescent stressors
- Responsibility and self-esteem
- Social and emotional learning
- Connections and relationships

### LESSON 3: Helping Students at Risk

- Response protocol
- Dealing with suicide
- Healthy response to grief
- Non-fatal suicide attempts

### LESSON 4: Schools & Communities

- Need for school involvement
- Suicide prevention programs
- Crisis response teams
- Family partnerships



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# Tackling Tough Text



## *Reading Instruction Requirement*

### Standards:

his course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Reading and comprehension are essential skills required for academic growth and professional excellence in all fields.

Students may come across vocabulary, phrases, and writing styles that they find difficult to read. As students progress to higher grades, they are exposed to non-fiction reading material that is of a higher level of difficulty across all subjects. How can you help your students read and comprehend tough text, developing them into strong readers?

This course includes practical strategies on tackling tough text, with a focus on the Reading Comprehension Checklist. This checklist integrates research-based reading strategies across all subject areas.



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# Tackling Tough Text

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Comprehension

- The importance of building students' self-efficacy to ensure learning
- The need for appropriate background knowledge and reading strategies
- Strategies for teaching reading comprehension
- Go beyond traditional teaching models toward participatory literary practices
- The Reading Comprehension Checklist

### LESSON 2: The Checklist

- The roadmap to activate students' background knowledge
- Understanding essential steps while working with the checklist, to ensure an internalization of the reading comprehension process
- The value of pre-reading in making stronger readers, and the four steps involved

### LESSON 3: Working with Questions

- Understanding how to label and analyze questions that accompany the text

### LESSON 4a: Time to Read

- Beginning the final part of the checklist; the actual reading of the text
- The process of identifying and underlining five key words in the text
- The recommended sequence of answering questions
- The importance of emphasizing students' self-confidence

### LESSON 4b: Evaluating the Checklist

- The practical aspects and benefits of using the checklist in the classroom
- Using the evaluation in the checklist to identify areas where students need more help
- Understanding the need for tough text levels and the significance of the checklist



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# Technology in the 21st Century Classroom



## Standards:

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It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Today's educators know about many digital tools at their disposal. However, using technology in the classroom requires more than just knowing how to use the tools. Teachers need to understand the role of technology in the learning process, and principles to integrate tech in a way that it promotes learning without distracting from the curriculum.

This course teaches concepts and ideas behind using technology in the classroom. It also helps teachers to understand skills that students need to develop in order to use technology in the most effective way.



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# Technology in the 21st Century Classroom

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Introduction

- The mindset behind using technology
- How learning environments and education have changed with technology
- Technology standards and essential conditions required for learning to take place while using technology

### LESSON 2: Tool Set

- Classroom tools
- A code of conduct
- The need for parent education and learning to create a permission slip
- Integrating technology into the curriculum

### LESSON 3: Skill Set

- The skill set required to succeed in the 21st century, and how these skills relate to technology
- Technology that teaches students how to create, connect, communicate, collaborate, and think critically
- Digital learning farms
- Roles students can take on while using technology in the classroom, including tutorial designers, official scribes, researchers, collaboration coordinators, contributors to society, and curriculum reviewers

### LESSON 4: Mindset

- Digital literacies
- Literacy including basic literacy, information literacy, media literacy, visual literacy, global literacy and network literacy
- Ethical use of digital media
- Digital footprints



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# Trauma Sensitive Teaching



## Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

This course enables educators to become more attuned to the signs of trauma that impede student learning. Integrating trauma sensitive teaching methodologies create a learning environment that is conducive to the academic development of all students.

Through this course, educators will learn about the ways in which trauma impacts learning behaviors, and the strategies they can adopt to help students regulate their emotions, build resilience, and thrive both within and beyond the classroom. Packed with innumerable tips, strategies, and real-life examples for teachers who wish to master the art of trauma sensitive teaching, this course is an incredible resource for teachers everywhere.



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# Trauma Sensitive Teaching

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Understanding Trauma

- What is trauma?
- Signs and executive functioning of trauma
- Teaching methodologies
- Trauma and resilience

### LESSON 2: Building Resilience

- What is resilience?
- Identify and label emotions
- Nurturing competence and tone of voice
- Promoting self-advocacy and problem-solving

### LESSON 3: Trauma-induced Anxiety

- Types of anxiety
- Relationship building
- Resolving conflicts
- Fostering self-efficacy

### LESSON 4: Creating Trauma-supportive Classrooms

- Physical organization and psychological culture
- Consistency and predictability
- Behavior strategies
- Homework, test and social anxiety



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# Understanding ADHD



## Standards:

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It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Have you ever come across a child who's always on the move? They might have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Children with this condition are restless, impulsive, and have a very short attention span.

These energetic students can often disrupt a classroom. This course provides a variety of tips, adaptations, and strategies for teaching students with ADHD and other students who are energetic, hyperactive, or have difficulty paying attention.

You will learn about classroom modifications and adaptations that can help maintain order in the classroom and discover methods for communicating more clearly with special educators and parents.



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# Understanding ADHD

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Introduction

- Definition of and challenges of ADHD
- Causes of ADHD
- Strengths of students with ADHD
- Prognosis and treatment of ADHD

### LESSON 2: Core Issues in ADHD

- The ADHD brain and how the changes in the brain cause deficits
- Challenges in ADHD and strategies that may be used to overcome them, especially in the areas of attention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity
- Strategies that are useful in working with students with ADHD including instruction sheets, classroom seating, movement breaks, and rules
- Dealing with anger and addictive behavior in students with ADHD

### LESSON 3: Associated Issues in ADHD

- Issues seen in ADHD, including issues in organization, motivation and social skills
- How teachers may help students to organize their schoolwork and complete it
- How to motivate students with ADHD
- How to support students with ADHD so they can build positive friendships

### LESSON 4: Accommodations

- Classroom accommodations that can help a student with ADHD learn and perform well
- Modified seating and lighting
- How a classroom schedule and organization can support learning
- Adapting homework, visual aids, and assessments in order to help a child with ADHD cope with the curriculum



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