

TX Requirements Package (40 Hours)



The TX Requirements Package includes 8 self-study courses (5 hours each) for a total 40 hours of professional development, designed to help meet the 37.5 hours of renewal requirements in Texas.

- Bullying: Prevention and Policies for Schools
- English Language Learners in the Classroom
- Ethics for Education Professionals
- IEPs: Documentation and Implementation for Teachers
- Recognition of Early-onset Mental Health Illness in Children & Adolescents
- Rubrics in the Classroom
- Virtual Field Trips
- Writing and Dyslexia: Overcoming Challenges

Bullying: Prevention and Policies for Schools



Recognizing Warning Signs for At-Risk Students 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.

Bullying is a form of aggressive behavior that can be covert or overt in nature. Teachers must build a school culture where bullying has no place by modeling and fostering healthy social interactions among students.

This course helps teachers develop their understanding of bullying and gives them confidence to respond to and address it.

The practical strategies in this course can be adapted by teachers to meet the specific needs of their individual classrooms. Teachers are empowered to prevent and respond to bullying effectively as part of promoting positive environments in which all students can learn and thrive.



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Quiz

Bullying: Prevention and Policies for Schools

Course Outline

LESSON 1: What is Bullying?

- Defining and understanding bullying behavior
- Differentiating between bullying myths and facts
- Learning about the different types of bullying
- The characteristics and effects of bullying
- Recognizing warning signs of victimization and identifying bullying incidents

LESSON 2: Cyberbullying

- The difference between cyberbullying and traditional bullying
- The different types of cyberbullying and learning how to recognize the signs
- How to prevent and respond to cases of cyberbullying
- School level measures to prevent cyberbullying

LESSON 3: Reporting and Response

- Four phases/levels of reporting a bullying incident
- Anonymous and online reporting of bullying incidents
- Documentation of bullying incidents
- The different bullying intervention methods
- Challenges faced by school administrators while dealing with bullying incidents

LESSON 4: Bullying awareness and prevention

- The key elements, aspects, and challenges of school-wide bullying prevention
- Bullying prevention at the classroom and individual level
- Exploring different bullying awareness activities for elementary, middle, and high school students
- Involving parents in the anti-bullying initiatives of the school



5 Hours
of Learning



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Resources & Tools for
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English Language Learners in the Classroom



Educating Diverse Student Populations 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



5 Hours
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Ethics for Education Professionals



Professional Ethics and Understanding Appropriate Relationships Requirement

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.



5 Hours
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IEPs: Documentation and Implementation for Teachers



Educating Diverse Student Populations 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.

The goal of this course is to help teachers get comfortable with and understand the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process. Through rich examples and templates, teachers learn to understand and incorporate recommended IEP strategies in a classroom setting.

Through developing, aligning with, and carrying out the IEP, teachers can provide children with an appropriate education in the least restrictive environment.

Teachers will examine various supports and services a student with special needs may receive for instruction and testing, explore regulations and requirements, and develop a collaborative team to improve education for children with special needs.



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IEPs: Documentation and Implementation for Teachers

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Research
- Common special education terms
- Understanding IDEA and IEP
- Understanding Section 504
- The special education process

LESSON 2: The IEP Team

- Setting up the IEP team
- Roles and responsibilities of IEP team members and the IEP team process
- Typical IEP meeting
- Preparing for an IEP meeting

LESSON 3: Developing a Standards-based IEP

- Components of a standards-based IEP
- Standards-based annual goals and post-secondary goals
- Student assessment and progress
- Identifying special education services
- Year-end evaluations

LESSON 4: Translating IEP goals

- Models of school-based interventions
- Classroom accommodations and modifications
- Barriers to effective use of accommodations
- General types of accommodations
- Effective teaching strategies/instructional accommodations
- Testing, timing, and grading accommodations



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



Educating Diverse Student Populations 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

- 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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Rubrics in Teaching and Learning



Collecting and Analyzing Information Requirement

Standards:

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

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A rubric is more than an assessment.

By using consistent grading, teachers can provide quality formative and summative feedback for students at periodic intervals throughout the year.

Teachers use rubrics to grade a wide range of student work, including: solo projects, group work, portfolios, homework assignments, book reviews, and tests.



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Rubrics in Teaching and Learning

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- The purpose, significance and characteristics of rubrics in education
- Different types of rubrics
- Learning to choose rubrics to match specific needs

LESSON 2: Design and Implementation

- Stages in designing a rubric based on required criteria
- Identifying the online resource required
- Seeking feedback and teacher assessment of one's own rubric

LESSON 3: Rubrics in Instruction

- How to use rubrics to enhance instructional effectiveness
- Integrating rubrics into different subjects
- Identifying and meeting diverse learning needs

LESSON 4: Rubrics in Assessment

- Usefulness of assessment rubrics and description of its different elements
- Role of a teacher in developing and implementing effective assessment rubrics
- Assessment rubric based on standards and teacher self-assessment rubric



5 Hours
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Virtual Field Trips



Digital Learning and Integrating Technology Requirement

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

Field trips help students make connections between classroom learning and the world. However, they aren't always practical due to budget constraints, safety concerns, or learning needs.

Virtual field trips are an effective alternative to traditional field trips because of accessibility, ease, and interactivity. They are cost-effective, safe to use, and break down geographical and learning barriers. Virtual field trips work well for all types of classrooms.

In this course, teachers discover innumerable tips and resources to plan, create, and customize virtual trips and cater to their students' needs. Take classroom learning beyond the confines of the classroom.



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Quiz

Virtual Field Trips

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Characteristics
- Opportunities
- Applicability

LESSON 2: Virtual Field Trip Resources

- Pre-designed virtual field trips
- Resources to design virtual field trips
- Maximizing learning

LESSON 3: Planning a Virtual Field Trip

- Considerations
- Types of virtual field trips

LESSON 4: Conducting a Virtual Field Trip

- Setting the stage and goal
- Student participation and post-virtual field trip follow-up
- Drawing connections and real-world implications
- Reporting and evaluating the virtual field trip



5 Hours
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Resources & Tools for
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Writing and Dyslexia: Overcoming Challenges



Students with Disabilities; Dyslexia Requirement

Standards:

This course aligns 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 writing are crucial aspects of student learning and critical life skills. Teaching students to read and write can be layered and challenging, especially since individual learners require teachers to adapt a range of teaching methodologies and approaches.

This course explores how writing challenges in the classroom may show up, including learning conditions (such as dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyspraxia) that may make it difficult for children to read and write, and a variety of teaching and evaluation strategies that can help all children — regardless of their level — to become competent readers and writers. An incredibly useful resource for teachers everywhere, this course is an invaluable tool for mastery of the art, craft, and science of writing.



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Writing and Dyslexia: Overcoming Challenges

Course Outline

Lesson 1: Writing Challenges

- The importance of writing
- Dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyspraxia: symptoms and diagnosis
- Decoding and encoding challenges
- Handwriting and other writing challenges

Lesson 2: Transcription Challenges

- Spelling
- Morphology
- Phonics
- Keyboarding

Lesson 3: Cognitive Functions in Writing

- Writing challenges
- Memory, attention, and concentration
- Sequencing, planning, and organization
- Strategies to improve writing

Lesson 4: Sharpening Writing Skills

- Pre-writing
- Initial draft
- Revising
- Assessment



5 Hours
of Learning



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