High-Leverage Practices in Special Education

Resources You Will Want!
Resources You Can Trust!

There’s a lot of talk these days about **high-leverage practices**—frequently occurring, essential educational practices that all special educators should know how to do. High-leverage practices are evidence based, meaning that they reflect effective methods that when successfully implemented can improve results for struggling learners.

The twenty-two high-leverage practices—covering the areas of collaboration, assessment, social/emotional/behavioral, and instruction—are designed to serve as a road map for guiding teacher preparation, professional development, and/or current self-assessment.

**Defining Skills, Preparing Teachers, Improving Student Outcomes: Learn More**

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and the CEEDAR Center provide solid resources to help you learn about high-leverage practices in special education and how to use them effectively in educational settings. Take a look on page 2.

“High-leverage practices are essential to effective teaching and fundamental to supporting student learning.”

---

**Collaboration**
1. Collaborate with professionals to increase student success.
2. Organize and facilitate effective meetings with professionals and families.
3. Collaborate with families to support student learning and secure needed services.

**Assessment**
4. Use multiple sources of information to develop a comprehensive understanding of a student’s strengths and needs.
5. Interpret and communicate assessment information with stakeholders to collaboratively design and implement educational programs.
6. Use student assessment data, analyze instructional practices, and make necessary adjustments that improve student outcomes.

**Social/Emotional/Behavioral**
7. Establish a consistent, organized, and respectful learning environment.
8. Provide positive and constructive feedback to guide students’ learning and behavior.
9. Teach social behaviors.
10. Conduct functional behavioral assessments to develop individual student behavior support plans.

**Instruction**
11. Identify and prioritize long- and short-term learning goals.
12. Systematically design instruction toward specific learning goals.
13. Adapt curriculum tasks and materials for specific learning goals.
14. Teach cognitive and metacognitive strategies to support learning and independence.
15. Provide scaffolded supports.
16. Use explicit instruction.
17. Use flexible grouping.
18. Use strategies to promote active student engagement.
19. Use assistive and instructional technologies.
20. Provide intensive instruction.
21. Teach students to maintain and generalize new learning across time and settings.
22. Provide positive and constructive feedback to guide students’ learning and behavior.
Learn More About These Resources at www.highleveragepractices.org/resources/

**High-Leverage Practices in Special Education**
What constitutes an effective special educator? What instructional practices are best for fostering student engagement and learning? How can teachers be better prepared for the classroom? These and other questions are answered in *High-Leverage Practices in Special Education*. The book describes four interrelated areas of teacher practice and breaks down twenty-two high-leverage practices that teachers should learn and master.

**High Leverage Practices for Inclusive Classrooms**
*High Leverage Practices for Inclusive Classrooms* delves deep into the set of practices that are essential to effective teaching and fundamental to supporting student learning. The book focuses primarily on Tiers 1 and 2, or work that mostly occurs with students with mild disabilities in general education classrooms. The book provides rich, practical information on each of the twenty-two practices.

**TEACHING Exceptional Children (Special Issue)**
This special issue of *TEACHING Exceptional Children*, “Putting High-Leverage Practices Into Practice,” presents nine published articles that reflect and embody specific high-leverage practices. The articles align with the four core areas (collaboration, assessment, social/emotional/behavioral, and instruction) and are intended to be a springboard for discussion and instruction related to “how-to” guidance.

**High-Leverage Practices in Special Education: Reference Guides**
From National Professional Resources, these laminated quick-reference guides fold out to present strategies, tips, and resources. The guides cover the areas of high-leverage practices—collaboration, assessment, social/emotional/behavioral, and instruction.