Top Tips for PD Providers

Take advantage of all the IRIS Center has to offer: Modules, Case Studies, Information Briefs, Activities, Interviews, Evidence-Based Practice Summaries, Video Vignettes, and more!

Modules

🌟 Use Modules in face-to-face, hybrid, or online professional development.
🌟 Show teachers how to navigate the STAR Legacy Cycle by showing the video Navigating an IRIS STAR Legacy Module and by doing a Module together as an in-service activity.
🌟 Challenge teachers to complete two Modules of their choice before the next training.
🌟 Show teachers the Module Outline to use for notes; use it yourself to preview the Module.
🌟 Let teachers know they should expect to spend 1-4 hours on each Module; they can break it up or do it all at once.
🌟 Assign the Module’s Assessment questions to supplement teachers’ professional action plans.
🌟 Remind teachers that the IRIS resources are free and available 24/7.

Information Briefs, Activities, Interviews

🌟 Use these additional resources to support inservice events by supplementing books/readings, opening with attention getters, enhancing discussions, and supporting professional development topics.
🌟 Have teachers present Information Briefs on the professional development topic.
🌟 Show teachers how Activities enhance other IRIS resources, such as Modules and Case Studies.
🌟 Use Interviews to allow teachers to hear more in-depth conversations about hot topics from experts in the field.

Evidence-Based Practice Summaries

🌟 Explore the IRIS-vetted Evidence-Based Practice Summaries.
🌟 Prepare your teachers to become consumers of research and to understand what makes data reliable and valid.
🌟 Accustom your teachers to using IRIS-vetted Evidence-Based Practice Summaries instead of broad Internet searches.
🌟 Inform your teachers about where to find and how to identify evidence-based practices for use in their teaching.
🌟 Use the Summaries as handouts to provide more detail about practices described in books.

Case Studies

🌟 Model cooperative learning in your inservice event by grouping teachers to work on Case Studies.
🌟 Model differentiated instruction by assigning the Case Studies’ scenarios to different teachers based on levels of experience and grade level.
🌟 Use one Case Study scenario with the whole group, then explore different levels based on individual needs.
🌟 Use Case Studies and STAR sheets to problem solve real-life classroom challenges.
🌟 Discuss how STAR sheets can be used in Professional Learning Communities.

Video Vignettes

🌟 Explore videos on a variety of topics.
🌟 Hear stories of individuals with disabilities and their family members.
🌟 Use videos as a coaching tool to improve classroom practice.
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PD Planning
- Use posted Planning Forms to integrate IRIS in your PD events.
- Brainstorm ways to apply the information to current situations within each participant's classroom.
- See to it that participants leave the training with a plan of action based on their needs.
- Foster cooperation among colleagues within districts (e.g., general educators, special educators, and related service providers).
- Assess district level or school level needs to tailor professional development and align IRIS resources.

Tech Tips
- Expand Module content to full screen for better viewing by clicking the page expander in the upper-right corner of your browser window.
- Show videos in full screen for easier viewing by clicking the full-screen button in the bottom-right of the video clip.
- Add closed-captioning to videos by clicking the CC in the bottom-right of the video clip.
- Find resources quickly under IRIS Resource Topics on the homepage.
- Remind teachers to update software under Help & Support before using IRIS resources.
- Click on the Help & Support link at the top-right of the page if you need additional assistance.
- Print or save your favorite resources by selecting the printer or pdf icon at the top of the page.
- Use your mouse or trackpad to scroll through a page when the scroll-bar is not showing.

More about IRIS Resources
- Under the Using IRIS tab:
  - Watch videos on Navigating the IRIS Website, Navigating the IRIS Resource Locator (IRL), and Using IRIS Modules.
  - Find the IRIS Module about Adult Learning Theory, Sample Wrap-Around Concept Maps, Planning Forms, and Manuals & Answer Keys to some IRIS resources.
- Under the Research & Evaluation tab:
  - Review evidence that IRIS resources are effective.
  - Read articles that cite the work of the IRIS Center.
- Under the Resources tab:
  - Locate IRIS Modules, Case Studies, Activities, Information Briefs, Video Vignettes, and more.
  - Find resources available in Spanish.
  - Locate other federally funded projects through the Web Resource Directory.
  - Explore tools that list films and books that feature characters with disabilities.
  - Use a glossary of special education terms.

www.iriscenter.com - www.iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu

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