

Educational Services Division

Special Education Department

**Special Education Textbooks & Instructional
Materials**

Comprehensive

September 2024

Adopted Curriculum

higher order thinking and creativity skills using a variety of learning preferences to support visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learners.

Through News 2 You, students can engage in meaningful conversations with their peers and families about world events while building comprehension and context relative to their community and world. The issue-based learning in each weekly edition of News 2 You helps students develop new critical thinking and communication skills where they have the ability to form and express ideas and opinions about what they are learning.

L3

L3 Skills provides academic and transition skill-based practice that allows individuals with special needs to master important educational concepts and lifelong learning. Skills are learned and enhanced through fun and engaging activities that extend their achievement beyond daily classroom activities. Educational games and activities provide students with the confidence to successfully reach their highest potential.

SymbolStix

SymbolStix provides individuals with communication disabilities access to the learning, language and self-expression tools required to help them understand the world around them and express their thoughts and needs. Symbolstix includes more than 60,000 dynamic, engaging and personally relevant visual support symbols to enable students to develop knowledge, build skills and connect with the world around them.

Teachers using Symbolstix are provided with the tools to simultaneously create and deliver quick print and interactive communication and learning materials in the format that best meets their particular classroom needs. Teachers can also embrace their multicultural classrooms through the ability to easily change skin tones and generate symbols and text in English, Spanish and 10 other languages.

STAR

The STAR Program (Strategies for Teaching based on Autism Research, Arick, Loos, Falco, Krug, 2015) teaches children critical skills identified by the 2001 National Research Council and uses many of the evidence-based practices identified in the 2009 National Standards Report and 2014 National Professional Development Report. The ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) instructional methods of discrete trial training, pivotal response training and teaching functional routines form the instructional base of this comprehensive program for children with autism. This program has been shown to be an effective curriculum for students at various developmental levels.

The STAR Program includes detailed lesson plans, teaching materials, data systems and a curriculum-based assessment for teaching in the six curricular areas of receptive language, expressive language, spontaneous language, functional routines, academics, and play & social skills. STAR is a program with three distinct levels.

Level 1:

Level 1 is appropriate if a student shows some difficulty understanding or following simple commands, has no language or very little language, has moderate behavior issues when asked to follow a simple task, and/or may not interact with other children very well. With the Level 1, students are taught to understand basic language concepts and commands, start to use verbal language to request their needs and desires, understand and follow simple routines such as arrival to an activity area, departure from an activity area, circle time, or snack time, and begin to participate in independent constructive play.

Level 2:

Level 2 is appropriate if a student can often follow some simple commands but conversely shows difficulty with 2-step commands or requests that are considered more complex. Additionally, if a student uses only one word (or picture) to request desires, understands only simple nouns, plays only in isolation, and only follows simple routines this level would be considered the most appropriate. With Level 2, students are taught to follow 2- step commands, use multiple words to make more complex requests, use simple verbs such as “sleeping, eating or crying”, learn the names of other children, play interactively, identify numbers, letters, and a few sight words, answer “wh” questions.

Level 3:

Level 3 is appropriate if a student can use two or more words (or pictures) to communicate. Additionally, a student should be able to label objects, identify numbers

the needs of every student. The Links school, community and vocational lesson plans provide instructional staff with the tools necessary to teach both individual skills and independence in daily routines.

In addition, Links:

- Provides a comprehensive curriculum for upper elementary, middle, high school and post secondary students

- Is aligned to Common Core State Standards and appropriate across various developmental needs

- Is customizable for individual student needs and provides extensive lesson plans for individual and group instruction

- Offers instant progress monitoring through a Web-based platform

- Allows for data sharing and instructional collaboration

- Provides IEP goal and objective recommendations

- Offers custom visual supports for use in teaching routines and lessons

STAR Online Learning System

increasing communication skills, attention, literacy, math, and student-specific IEP goals and objectives. If needed, caregivers will be supported in learning reinforcement strategies and developing home routines.

Strand “C” lessons for students who are able to attend for the entire session and will be direct teaching between the student and teacher. Instruction focuses on communication, academics, extended attention, completing independent work assignments, and student-specific IEP goals and objectives.

iXL - Curriculum

The department utilizes iXL curriculum in the areas of math, language arts, science, and social studies. iXL is aligned to common core standards. For any lesson or learning objective, teachers are able to find the exact skill to support their teaching.

iXL supports differentiated instruction through a deeply adaptive curriculum. Within each skill there are up to 12 levels of finely-tuned scaffolding that students progress through, ensuring they are always challenged at the right level. iXL is designed to be open and flexible: teachers have access to the entire curriculum and can adapt it to meet the needs of their unique classroom and students.

iXL’s Real-Time Diagnostic pinpoints each student's grade-level proficiency in math and English language arts. Built on top of iXL’s comprehensive curriculum, the Real-Time Diagnostic is able to assess students at a deep level across every concept in the K–12 curriculum. Teachers get an accurate portrait of their overall knowledge, as well as their knowledge levels in key strands. Based on each student's diagnostic results, the Real-Time Diagnostic generates targeted action plans that show teachers how to help them grow. These recommendations link seamlessly to specific iXL skills, providing a simple way for teachers to differentiate their instruction and help students make meaningful progress.

iXL uses insights from student work in the curriculum and the Real-Time Diagnostic to create personalized skill recommendations for every student. Every recommendation is precise, timely, and just what the student needs to build skills and confidence. IXL's guidance gives every student a personalized pathway for growth, but they are never locked in to only these lessons. This ensures teachers have the flexibility to make choices about what their students work on and how they want to extend their daily lessons.