

# North Carolina State Improvement Project II

*A project of the  
Exceptional Children Division  
of the North Carolina  
Department of Public Instruction*



## Background

NCSIP II is a program in the **Exceptional Children Division of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction**. Funded by the **Office of Special Education Programs** in the U.S. Department of Education, NCSIP II works to improve the quality and effectiveness of educational programs and instruction for students with disabilities in North Carolina.



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### **UNC Technical Assistance and Resource System**

NC State Improvement Project

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quality professional development  
opportunities that have proven  
successful in improving the  
academic performance of  
students with disabilities

## Purpose

To provide staff development and on-site technical assistance for the public schools and university teacher education programs in the implementation of research supported instructional programs for students with disabilities.



## Goals

1. Improve the basic skills performance of students with disabilities.
2. Increase the percentage of qualified teachers of students with disabilities.
3. Increase graduation rates and decrease dropout rates of students with disabilities.
4. Improve parent satisfaction with, and support of, school services for students with disabilities.

## Primary Features

- ◇ **Partnerships** across the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, local education agencies, personnel preparation programs, and parents and parent organizations.
- ◇ **Regional demonstration and training centers** to promote quality instruction and educational programs for teaching language, reading, writing, mathematics and learning strategies.
- ◇ **School-wide positive behavioral support programs.**
- ◇ **Technical assistance and resources** for personnel preparation programs.
- ◇ **Recruitment and retention programs** to attract individuals into special education, in partnership with teacher education programs.
- ◇ **Educational leadership training** to improve the quality of education for students with disabilities, in partnership with The Principals Executive Program (PEP).
- ◇ **An evaluation system** to keep educators, parents and the public informed on the progress of students with disabilities in the North Carolina Public Schools.

*"We have demonstrated that with appropriate instructional strategies and quality trained and supported teachers, students with disabilities can make significant yearly progress in academic performance."*

*Mary N. Watson, NCDPI's Exceptional Children Director, Sept. 2005*

## Results

Over the last five years, NC SIP has found that:

- ◇ most students with disabilities can achieve at grade level when provided appropriate instruction,
- ◇ teachers must be trained to use explicit, systematic, multi-sensory instructional methods to be effective in teaching students with learning difficulties,
- ◇ students reading below grade level will progress faster when placed in small instructional groups for remedial instruction.