Special Education Technical Assistance Update February 25, 2021



■ The Texas Home Learning (THL) Accommodation Companion Guides bridge existing student accommodations to assistive technology (AT) options that enable access and greater student progress within THL materials. These quick reference documents can be used by both general and special educators to identify support options that meet individual student support needs.



■ Frequently Asked Questions: Dyslexia and Related Disorders has recently been updated and posted to the TEA website. You will find this document on TEA's Dyslexia and Related Disorders webpage under "Dyslexia Resources."



Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a framework that offers an approach to designing a learning environment that considers the wide range of learner variability. Five UDL online modules are now available from the Inclusion in Texas network (in the "Online Professional Development" tab) and provide free professional development for educators who want to learn about and implement the UDL framework. Participants have 30 days to complete each module and can receive up to 30 CPEs if they complete all five modules.



■ The Supporting Early Childhood Transitions Guide (in the "Resources" tab) provides tips on several topics that are essential to successful transitions, such as how to: establish a supportive early childhood environment; promote communication and collaborative relationships; develop a cohesive transition plan; and build self-determination skills.



■ The Texas Statewide Leadership for Autism Training (TSLAT) and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) welcome the submission of proposals for engaging and innovative presentations for the 29th Annual Texas Autism Conference. Educators, parents, individuals with autism, and other professionals come together at this conference to learn, connect, and apply new knowledge to better serve individuals with autism and their families. Proposals are now due by March 5, 2021.



■ The Texas Complex Access Network (TXCAN) has made available a new training, Evidence Based Practices for the Education of Students with Down Syndrome, worth 6 CPEs. This training was developed as a result of a statewide stakeholder meeting of parents of children who have Down syndrome. Parents identified priorities for the education of their children. Training topics include inclusion supports, strategies for teaching academic and functional skills, and promoting pro-social behaviors.



■ The Child Find, Evaluation, and ARD Supports Network recently posted the Special Education Informed Consent Quick Guide and Online Training Module. These resources provide information regarding the legal requirements and best practice for local education agencies to follow when obtaining informed consent for conducting Full and Individual Initial Evaluations (FIIEs), reevaluations when additional data is necessary, and initiating special education and related services.

