



# SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY SUPPORT PROJECT

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## Position Description

### **Regional Specialist – Region 2**

<b>PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT:</b>	Specific Learning Disability Support Project (SLDSP)
<b>HOURLY/SALARY:</b>	Salary
<b>JOB CLASSIFICATION:</b>	Administrative
<b>SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES:</b>	None
<b>REPORTS TO:</b>	SLDSP Project Manager
<b>TERM OF EMPLOYMENT:</b>	12 Month

### **JOB SUMMARY:**

The SLD Support Project Regional Specialist's primary responsibility is the design, delivery, and continuous improvement of high quality professional development focused on evidence-based practices for students with specific learning disabilities. This position requires advanced skill in adult learning, professional learning facilitation, and the ability to translate research into effective, practice focused training for educators and administrators. The majority of this role is dedicated to planning, facilitating, and evaluating professional development, with additional responsibilities related to technical assistance, coaching, and project support.

The Specific Learning Disability Support Project is a federally funded grant project through the Illinois State Board of Education in partnership with Eastern Illinois University and Eastern Illinois Area of Special Education. The Specific Learning Disability Support Project aligns with IDEA's purpose "...by supporting system improvement activities, coordinated research, personnel preparation, coordinated technical assistance, technology development and media services [to] ensure the effectiveness of efforts to educate children with disabilities." This project aims to reduce the achievement gap and offer training and resources to meet the educational needs of all students with specific learning disabilities. It also aims to increase reading and math skills and decrease achievement gaps by expanding upon the development of previous training materials to address "specially designed instruction" for students with specific learning disabilities, including, but not limited to, dyslexia.

The primary work location for the Regional Specialist position may be remote within the assigned region or at EIASE's central office. **Applicants must reside in one of the following counties: Boone, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, or Will.** While most travel will occur within the assigned region, this position requires occasional travel throughout the state. The SLD Support Project (SLDSP) Regional Specialist will work collaboratively with other project staff to design and deliver professional learning focused on best practices in special education related to specific learning disabilities. The Regional Specialist will also collaborate with project personnel on professional learning planning and provide direct technical assistance and coaching to school districts and joint agreements. In addition, the SLDSP Regional Specialist will support the Project Manager in ensuring that program objectives and grant requirements are met.

### **ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:**

1. Bachelor's degree in special education or a closely related field (Master's degree preferred)
2. ESL (English as a Second Language) endorsement and fluency in Spanish preferred
3. Demonstrated knowledge of IDEA and best practices related to serving students with specific learning disabilities, including dyslexia

4. Demonstrated expertise in designing and delivering high quality professional development for educators, coaches, and administrators, including large group facilitation and sustained learning experiences
5. Demonstrated ability to apply principles of adult learning theory to professional development design and delivery
6. Strong understanding of evidence-based instructional practices in reading and/or mathematics, including specially designed instruction
7. Experience providing technical assistance, coaching, or consultation to schools, districts, or joint agreements
8. Ability to collaborate effectively with multiple partners, including state agencies, LEAs, ROEs, and SLDSP team members
9. Strong communication skills, both written and verbal, including the ability to present information clearly to varied audiences
10. Ability to analyze and apply research to practice in professional learning and resource development
11. Strong organizational skills and ability to manage multiple responsibilities while meeting grant timelines and expectations
12. Willingness and ability to travel regionally and statewide as required

#### **ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:**

The SLDSP Regional Specialist will work collaboratively with other Project personnel to develop and provide professional development regarding best practices in special education relating to specific learning disabilities. Additionally, the SLDSP Regional Specialist will work collaboratively with other Project personnel for conference planning and providing direct support to school districts/joint agreements seeking technical assistance/coaching. The SLDSP Regional Specialist will support the Project Manager's efforts to ensure that the program objectives are met. This position is primarily a professional development role, with the majority of work time dedicated to the design, delivery, evaluation, and refinement of professional learning experiences.

#### **Job Responsibilities**

1. Design, develop, and deliver high quality professional development focused on evidence-based and specially designed instruction for students with specific learning disabilities.
2. Facilitate regional and statewide professional learning sessions for educators, administrators, and other stakeholders.
3. Apply current research in reading, writing, and mathematics to the development of effective professional learning experiences.
4. Participate in regular advisory/oversight meetings as required by the Project.
5. Maintain a high level of competency in specially designed instruction and evidence-based instructional strategies, as well as the science of reading, math and writing.
6. Attend professional learning and, as required by the Project, obtain approval, certification, or licensing as a trainer of interventions or instructional systems in order to maintain and continually improve knowledge and professional skill.
7. Collaborate with Content Area Specialists to develop professional development related to reading, writing, and math.
8. Participate in committee work to further the goals of the project including supporting the development of social media posts, resources, and statewide conferences.
9. Ensure that the Project objectives are met within the proposed timeline and budget.
10. Maintain accurate training records.

#### **ADDITIONAL DUTIES:**

In addition to the essential job functions as listed above, this employee shall perform reasonable additional duties as requested by the supervisor or advisory council.