PROGRESS Center

at the American Institutes for Research®



PROGRESS Center Work at a Glance (Year 4)

November 2022-October 2023

Our Scope

The PROGRESS Center, which launched in 2019, provides information, resources, tools, and technical assistance (TA) services to support local educators and leaders (kindergarten through transition age) in developing and implementing high-quality educational programming that ensures that students with disabilities have access to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) that allows them to make progress and meet challenging goals, consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District* (2017).



Development of high-quality educational programming for students with disabilities



Implementation of high-quality educational programming for students with disabilities

×



Access to
FAPE and improved
outcomes for students
with disabilities

Knowledge Development

The PROGRESS Center conducts knowledge development activities to synthesize evidence from the field and better understand current barriers and facilitators to the development and implementation of high-quality educational programming for students with disabilities. In Year 4, the PROGRESS Center built knowledge by conducting the following activities:



State Snapshots

 Conducted interviews with Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, and Texas and focused on how they have created professional learning and resources to support the development and implementation of specially designed instruction (SDI) within their states.



Sustainable Ecosystem Elements and Beating the Odds Analysis

- Conducted a literature review focused on the evidence base for currently identified elements of a sustainable ecosystem.
- Mapped Beating the Odds analysis plan to the identified elements of a sustainable ecosystem.



Educator Focus Groups

 Synthesized and disseminated findings from educator focus groups representing 66 educators from 5 regions across the United States.



Thought Leader Summit

- Hosted a two-part summit on special educator preparation, recruitment, and retention.
- Held virtual event with 57 attendees to share examples from research and practice.
- Hosted an in-person meeting with 16 stakeholders representing research, faculty, and state and district leaders to develop priorities and recommendations.

Technical Assistance

The PROGRESS Center delivers TA in various ways—through intensive TA with partnership sites; field-initiated requests for short-term TA focused on identified goals; a special interest group that brings together state and local education agency staff; and universal TA provided in freely available resources, presentations, and events.

The PROGRESS Center's intensive TA includes ongoing coaching and training with partnership sites to facilitate (a) sustainable, systemic change; (b) improved educator knowledge and skills; (c) a shift in school culture related to how students with disabilities are educated; and (d) improved student outcomes. These partnership sites also have been instrumental in the development and refinement of an Ecosystem Rubric that outlines key elements necessary for a sustainable ecosystem to support the development and implementation of high-quality educational programming for students with disabilities.

PARTNERSHIP SITES

- Completed 64 coaching and training sessions across 7 states and territories with partnership sites focused on individualized education program (IEP) development, IEP reviews, paraprofessional development, and feedback on data team meetings.
- Completed Ecosystem Rubric to guide TA goals and provided feedback on updated rubric to enhance usability.

FIELD-INITIATED REQUESTS

• Conducted 20 coaching and training sessions in 9 states and territories.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

- Hosted 34 participants across 21 states and territories during 4 calls about improving awareness and dissemination of high-quality educational programming for students with disabilities, with a focus on SDI.
- Our partnership sites receive long-term technical assistance and collaborate with us on a variety of initiatives and resource development.
- Sites with field-initiated requests receive short-term technical assistance focused on a self-identified goal.
- The special interest group includes state and local education agency representatives who collaborate with us on the development and dissemination of guidance and resources.



Universal Technical Assistance

The PROGRESS Center conducts universal TA to increase stakeholder knowledge and awareness of best practices for developing and implementing high-quality educational programming for students with disabilities. Participants of universal TA include general and special educators, educational leaders, higher education faculty, instructional coaches, families, and other stakeholders.

Engaging With Key Partners



DISSEMINATED

Disseminated PROGRESS Center and partner resources through social media, the website, presentations, and the newsletter.

NETWORKED

Networked with key stakeholders and partners, including educators, educational leaders, higher education faculty, and families.

COLLABORATED

Collaborated by co-creating resources and co-presenting with stakeholders and advisors.

PARTNERED

Partnered with 40 Educators in Residence from 22 states to give local perspectives in the work through providing feedback about resources, sharing lessons learned, presenting with PROGRESS Center staff, disseminating information to the field, and more.

Increasing Knowledge and Awareness



Virtual Events

- Prepping for PROGRESS 2023 with more than 400 participants throughout the 3-day event
- 4 virtual events (webinars and a private school forum) with a total of 486 attendees
- 4-part facilitated online course supporting students with disabilities in private school settings through behavior management with 43 participants

Conferences and Invited Presentations

- More than 26 in-person and virtual conference presentations at national and state conferences
- 14 invited presentations and keynote addresses



Self-Paced Course Engagement

- 15,423 registered users in the PROGRESS Center and NCII Learning Module Library
- 7,734 new users during the past year



New Products and Tools

- 14 new products | 5 modules; 2 videos for Stories from the Classroom; 1 discussion guide for Stories from the Classroom; 3 tip sheets; and 3 facilitated activities, including participant and facilitator guides
- 160+ resources and tools available on the website

Read what participants and stakeholders are saying about the PROGRESS Center's Prepping for PROGRESS event:



"It supported my concerns about beginning a new school year and gave new tools to help that process to be more successful." — Teacher



"The SDI content and resources strengthened my knowledge and confidence in sharing with others."

State Administrator



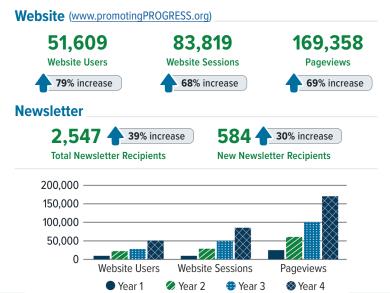
"Makes me excited to share my knowledge with others in my building and provide them with tools." — Teacher

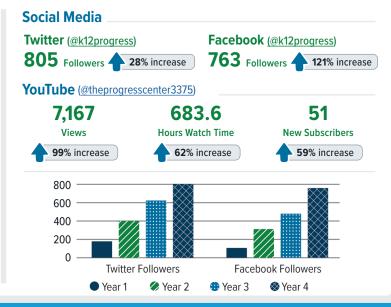


"Many takeaways in terms of information—I already shared with my team, and we plan on using the scenarios/ content during our PL [professional learning] time."

Local Administrator

By the Numbers—Our Reach in Year 4





PROGRESS Center

1400 Crystal Drive, 10th Floor | Arlington, VA 22202-3289 +1.202.403.5000 | **AIR.ORG | www.promotingPROGRESS.org**

at the American Institutes for Research® ■