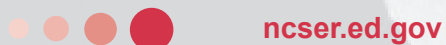


Meeting Unique Individual Needs

IDEA requires that children with unique individual needs receive **specially designed** instruction. NCSER meets this promise by systematically exploring how to best design instruction to meet the needs of each child with a disability.

Through rigorous, scientifically valid research, NCSER fulfills the **Department of Education's pledge** to promote the highest levels of achievement for all children.



ncser.ed.gov



The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) brings rigorous and relevant research, evaluation, and statistics to our nation's education system. It is transforming education into a field in which decision-makers routinely turn to evidence to inform policies and practices that affect students.

IES accomplishes this mission through the work of its four centers

- **National Center for Education Research**
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- **National Center for Education Statistics**
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- **National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance**
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- **National Center for Special Education Research**
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NATIONAL CENTER FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION RESEARCH

Building Evidence-based Education

Institute of Education Sciences
U.S. Department of Education



Fulfilling the Promise of IDEA

In December 2004, Congress reauthorized the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and in doing so, established the **National Center for Special Education Research (NCSEER)** as part of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). As the U.S. Department of Education's primary research arm, IES advances the **rigor, relevance, and usefulness** of education research.

The nation needs relevant and useable research that employs the same rigorous methodologies as in health care and other fields where questions of **"what works"** are of paramount importance. These answers are important for general education, but they are critical for special education and early intervention.

Helping Children with Disabilities

Special education and early intervention play a vital role in the achievement and social-emotional development of 7 million infants, toddlers, and students from birth through the age of 21.

These services are delivered in a variety of forms, from a vocabulary program designed to increase a 4th grader's knowledge of difficult words, to a specific lesson on the Constitution, and a communication program that fosters interaction with peers and the world at large.

Advancing Rigorous Research

In order to determine which of these programs work, as well as how, why and in what settings, NCSEER sponsors research on the needs of infants and children with disabilities and evaluates the effectiveness of services provided through IDEA.

NCSEER research grants are designed to improve educational and developmental results for children with disabilities. They include:

- Experimental studies to examine new and innovative interventions for teaching children to read and understand words fluently;
- Large-scale studies that replicate well-established instructional strategies with a new group of students; and
- Small, exploratory studies to determine the most effective strategies and systems for identifying and responding to children with unique needs.

Evidence-based Investments

Current Investments – NCSEER is investing in more than 60 studies and research grants, typically ranging from two to five years. Projects include:

- Evidence-based interventions for severe behavior disorders;
- Intensive, high quality literacy instruction for students identified with mental retardation;
- Large-scale assessments of reading proficiency that are accessible and valid for all students; and
- Evidence-based practices that improve cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, adaptive, and physical outcomes for infants, toddlers, and young children with disabilities.

Longitudinal Studies – The Pre-Elementary Education Longitudinal Study and National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 examine collective school experiences and outcomes of a nationally representative sample of children with disabilities, ranging from 3-5 years and 13-16 years of age, respectively.

National Assessment of IDEA 2004 – A comprehensive research program to assess progress in IDEA implementation and its effectiveness in:

- Improving academic achievement,
- Increasing participation in general education curricula,
- Fostering natural transition points,
- Enhancing parental participation,
- Reducing dropout rates,
- Reducing inappropriate identification,
- Evaluating the impact of national programs, and
- Gauging the effect of professional development activities.

Methodology and Applicability – NCSEER is studying a number of statistical and methodological issues that hold important consequences for the future of special education research. The Center also is collaborating with the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) to promote technical assistance and dissemination practices derived from the most rigorous research available.

