

Specially Designed Literacy Instruction for Students with Significant Disabilities (SWSD SDI)

This course provides educators the foundational knowledge and skills to expand language, communication and comprehensive literacy skills for early emergent readers and writers. It also supports IEP teams in developing their interprofessional collaboration knowledge and skills in order to diagnose, design and deliver high-quality, specially-designed literacy instruction encompassing language, communication and text comprehension.

Participants will learn about and use a variety of tools to:

- Diagnose current instruction
- Create an action plan for learning and improvement
- Diagnose student strengths and needs
- Design evidence-based instruction
- Deliver effective and aligned specially-designed instruction

Requirements

- 10 days of learning, spread across the school year
- Three virtual group coaching sessions
- Completion of an action plan and case study

Audience

- Elementary, middle and high school special education teachers who provide instruction to students with significant cognitive disabilities
- Professionals who support students with significant disabilities (i.e., speech-language pathologists, instructional coaches, school improvement leaders, behavior interventionists, autism specialists, consultants, teachers of the visually impaired, teachers of the deaf & hard of hearing, occupational therapists, physical therapists, etc.)
- A collaborative team is recommended (but not required), including any or all of the following:
 - Special education teachers
 - Instructional coaches
 - Administrators
 - AEA speech-language pathologists
 - AEA consultants and/or school psychologists



**Jan. 30, Feb. 13, March 6,
April 10, May 1, Aug. 5,
Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13 &
Dec. 11, 2026**

(plus 3 hours of coaching TBD)



8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Heartland AEA

6500 Corporate Drive
Johnston, IA



[Registration link](#)

4 credits

Cost

\$750 for participant only or \$950 for
license renewal credit

