Special Education is no longer a parallel system of education to general education. Therefore, the primary focus of professional development is “every child education”. Districts should call on the Special Education Improvement Consultants to assist with professional development and other school based improvement efforts. The Special Education Consultants’ primary role is to assist districts in programming and planning for the participation of students with special needs in the general education curriculum and in required assessments, such as MAP and MAP-A as required under state and federal law. The consultants also provide trainings and workshops on a regional level through the RPDC, as well as at the request of districts within the Central Region. Additionally, the consultants collaborate with other programs in the RPDC to meet the needs of districts as they serve students with disabilities. Collaboration with Missouri Colleges and Universities is also part of the activities assigned to the Special Education Improvement Consultants.

Academy Topics

**Directors’**
- Missouri Integrated Model
- Analysis of Core Curriculum
- Continuum of Services
- Sp Ed District Profile and Data Drill Down
- Missouri Improvement Planning Process/Grant
- Five Core Components of Reading
- Response to Intervention
- Direct, Explicit, Fidelity of Instruction
- Special Education Process
- Differentiated Instruction
- Program Management and Leadership

**Current Issues in Special Education**
- Evidence-Based Instruction
- Direct, Explicit, Fidelity of Instruction
- Differentiated Instruction
- Progress Monitoring
- Standards-Based IEPs
- Five Core Components of Reading
- MAP-A Administration
- Academic Vocabulary
- Classroom Management
- Behavior Intervention Plans

**Elem/MS/HS Co-Teaching**
- Role of the Building Administrator
- Shared System of Belief
- Prerequisite Skills
- Collaboration
- Five Approaches to Co-Teaching
- Differentiated Instruction
- Assessment for Learning
- Layered Curriculum™

**K-3 Reading**
- Analysis of Core Reading Curriculum
- Three-Tier Instruction
- Five Core Components of Reading
- Data-Based Instruction
- Progress Monitoring to Inform Instruction
- Differentiated Instruction

**Secondary Transition**
- Post Secondary Assessment
- Post-Secondary Accessibility Services
- Assessing and Exploring Careers
- Indicator 13 Compliance
- Transition Connections (Parents/Community Agencies)
- Post Secondary Transition Services