

Statement of Purpose:

Louisiana Believes that every child and school should have the opportunity to grow and thrive. To fulfill this promise to all students, including students with disabilities, it is critical that school systems and educators implement a coordinated and coherent vision for specialized supports to meet the specific instructional needs of each student. To be successful, students with autism spectrum disorder and related disabilities require specialized instruction to meet their specific needs in the areas of organization, behavior, and communication. With the increased numbers of students with autism spectrum disorder and related disabilities across the state, effective training and support is needed to build systems that increase the capacity of the staff who serve these students.

Statement of Need:

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is seeking to partner with an Institute of Higher Education (IHE) with extensive expertise in autism spectrum disorder and related disabilities and a demonstrated ability to support school systems in building capacity of educators to meet the needs of these students. This partner will provide direct professional development and technical assistance to school systems and educators to improve outcomes for this population of students.

As a result of this partnership school systems and educators across Louisiana will have:

- Universal access to tools and resources to help educators build familiarity with the foundational knowledge and skills needed to meet the needs to students with autism spectrum disorders and related disabilities.
- Access to ongoing, differentiated partnerships opportunities that deepen knowledge of content and pedagogy of specialized instruction to meet the needs of students with autism spectrum disorder and related disabilities in the areas of organization, behavior, and communication.

Scope of Work:

The specific responsibilities of this partnership include the following activities:

- Ensure school systems, administrators, and educators have continuous access to a suite of high-quality, web-based resources to support the individual education needs of students with autism spectrum disorder and related disabilities.
- Develop packages of high-quality professional development, based on professional learning standards, for school systems to support students with autism spectrum disorder and related disabilities.
- Provide direct training sessions to school system leaders and teachers in building systems to support students with autism spectrum disorder and related disabilities.

Eligible Participants:

Any IHE with demonstrated expertise in working with school systems to improve the outcomes for students with Autism and Related Disorders.

Funds Available:

The project will be funded using state-level IDEA funds. It is anticipated that one project will be funded for two years.

Application Requirements:

IHEs interested in becoming a partner in this work should send applications to specialeducation@la.gov by close of business **May 3, 2019**. The Department will select one organization for this project. The Department will review applications and make final selection by **May 10, 2019**.

1. Application Cover Sheet

2. Resumes for each person working on the project
3. Demonstrate your IHE's ability to deliver on the scope of work by providing responses to the following prompts. The LDOE will not be able to evaluate responses that exceed the page limits provided.
 - Describe your current experience working with school systems to support students with autism spectrum disorder and related services including all elements bulleted below. (No more than one page.)
 - The number of school systems, including the geographic reach and school system type (traditional, charter) your IHE has partnered with in the last 3 years.
 - The types of professional development and technical assistance your IHE has provided.
 - Evidence that your IHE's professional development and technical assistance has improved outcomes for students with autism and related disorders.
 - The LDOE would like to ensure school systems have access to partnership services that provide high-quality professional development to deepen content and pedagogy knowledge of specialized instruction to meet the needs of students with autism and related disorders in the areas of organization, behavior, and communication. Please describe your organization's ability to provide such partnerships by providing a response to either 1 or 2 below. (No more than two pages.)
 - 1) Provide a list of existing partnership services between your organization and school systems including all elements bulleted below.
 - Title of services
 - Description of services
 - Method (face to face, virtual, blended, coaching, etc.)
 - Duration (a specific number of hours, days, months)
 - Type of support (Initial or ongoing)
 - Maximum number of participants
 - Cost
 - 2) Outline a plan to develop a suite of partnership services between your organizations and school systems by July 1, 2020 that includes all elements (title, description, etc.) described above.
 - The LDOE would like to ensure school systems, including leaders and educators, have continuous access to a suite of high-quality, web-based resources. These tiered access resources will equip educators with foundational knowledge and skills to meet the needs of students with autism and related disorders. Please provide a two-year plan for providing tiered levels of access, including a tier of universal access, to web-based technical assistance for school systems across the state. (No more than two pages.)
 - The LDOE would like to ensure all school systems can attend in person direct training sessions that build systems to support for students with autism and related disorders. Please provide examples (no more than four) of universal professional development, based on standards for professional development established by [Learning Forward](#), that could be hosted at LDOE professional development events. (No more than two pages.)

Application Cover Sheet

Please provide the following information for the application:

Organization Name:	
Point of Contact:	
Mailing Address:	
Telephone:	
Email Address:	