**Institute of Higher Education (IHE) Advisory Partner Application**

**State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG)**

**Focus on Improving Literacy Outcomes for Students with Disabilities**

**Overview**

The Louisiana Department of Education (the Department) is accepting [applications](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSehLXZRHr19z9ydYiVkqINlbRitglIY1PfLz-WU5acFkOOWxQ/viewform?usp=sf_link) from **individual educators** at IHEs with experience in special education and/or English language arts (ELA) instruction[[1]](#footnote-1) to serve as IHE Advisory Partners. IHE Advisory Partners will play an influential role in improving access to high quality instruction and curricula for diverse learners, specifically students with disabilities, in grades three through five, across Louisiana.

The Department received a competitive five-year [State Personnel Development Grant](https://www2.ed.gov/programs/osepsig/index.html) to develop a professional development framework to improve literacy outcomes for students with disabilities in grades three through five. IHE Advisory Partners will advance work on the SPDG program by providing advice and guidance to the Department on components of the grant as described in the scope of work below. Work on this grant has begun and will continue through September 2021.

*Scope of Work*

The specific responsibilities of the IHE Advisory Partners will include the following types of activities:

* Participate in an initial meeting to discuss the Department’s approach to increasing access to high quality instruction and curricula for all students, including diverse learners like student with disabilities, not to exceed 2 hours per year.
* Review and provide structured feedback on materials and resources for diverse learners in grades three through five, such as the [instructional materials review](http://www.louisianabelieves.com/academics/ONLINE-INSTRUCTIONAL-MATERIALS-REVIEWS) rubrics for intervention programs and future iterations of the [Strategies for Success: A Guidebook for Supporting Students with Disabilities](https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/students-with-disabilities/strategies-for-success-a-guidebook-for-supporting-students-with-disabilities.pdf?sfvrsn=6) resource on an as needed basis, not to exceed 20 hours per year.
* Disseminate tools and resources to support students with disabilities in grades three through five within your institute or to additional institutes of higher education on an as needed basis, not to exceed 15 hours per year.
* Provide advice on literacy instructional approaches for students with disabilities in grades three through five, including [educator preparation program opportunities](https://www.louisianabelieves.com/teaching/believe-and-prepare) on an as needed basis, not to exceed 15 hours per year.
* Provide additional ad hoc advice and guidance on issues affecting ELA instruction and instructional materials for diverse learners in grades three through five, not to exceed 8 hours per year.

Becoming an IHE Advisory Partner requires post-secondary educators to commit to completing up to 60 hours of advisory and review work on the SPDG initiative, annually. The Department will prioritize applications from individuals who can commit to becoming an IHE Advisory Partner for the duration of the SPDG program (through September 2021).

*Compensation*

IHE Advisory Partners will receive $5,000 per contract year to complete the contract deliverables described above. The IHE Advisory Partner or his or her employer are responsible for any travel costs associated with being an IHE Advisory Partner. All travel, if required, will be in-state.

*Application*

Those interested in becoming an IHE Advisory Partner for the duration of the SPDG program (through September 2021) must apply [online](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSehLXZRHr19z9ydYiVkqINlbRitglIY1PfLz-WU5acFkOOWxQ/viewform?usp=sf_link) by February 23rd. Telephone interviews will be held in the beginning of March. The Department may select up to two applicants as IHE Advisory Partners.

The Louisiana Department of Education recommends that applicants use the form below to capture their responses before submitting them online to ensure that applicants have a record of what they submitted and to ensure responses are not lost due to unforeseen technology issues. Applicants can copy and paste their responses from the form below into the [online application](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSehLXZRHr19z9ydYiVkqINlbRitglIY1PfLz-WU5acFkOOWxQ/viewform?usp=sf_link).

Contact Kristi-Jo Preston at [kristijo.preston@la.gov](mailto:kristijo.preston@la.gov) with questions about the application or the SPDG program.

**SPDG IHE Advisory Partner Application**

*Basic Information (open response, unless otherwise noted)*

Full Name:

Email:

Phone Number:

Best Method of Contact: (Email/Phone)

Current IHE:

Position at IHE:

Link to IHE biography, if applicable:

*Questions*

1. Do you have experience teaching diverse learners, including students with disabilities? (Yes/No)
2. If you answered “Yes” above, in what capacity have you taught diverse learners?

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1. Do you have experience 1) teaching college-level course(s) in special education, and/or 2) directing special education programs/initiatives at an IHE? (Yes/No)
2. If you answered “Yes” above, list up to five courses and dates taught, or describe program/initiative you led.

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1. Do you have experience teaching college-level course(s) in English Language Arts? (Yes/No)
2. If you answered “Yes” above, list up to five courses and dates taught.

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1. Describe your philosophy/approach to supporting diverse learners in the general education classroom. For example, when teaching future educators, how would you advise them to help a sixth grade student who was reading on a fourth grade reading level? In your description, describe how this approach helps the student progress towards reading, understanding and expressing understanding of complex, grade-level texts.

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1. How would you propose disseminating tools and resources to support students with disabilities in grades three through five within your institute or to additional institutes of higher education? How would this improve access for future educators to high quality instructional materials?

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*Qualifications Checklist*

* I am a currently employed by an IHE (including professor, lecturer, education institute staff, researcher, adjunct) in Louisiana. (For individuals employed by public IHEs, this is restricted faculty only.)
* I have notified my employer of my intent to apply to become IHE Advisory Partner and have received permission to do so.
* I know that meeting IHE Advisory Partner obligations requires additional work outside of my regular duties.
* I have read through the application and am confident I will be able to meet all the requirements including meeting(s) and work products.
* To the best of my knowledge, I can commit to participating as an IHE Advisory Partner through the end of the SPDG program in September 2021.
* I understand that all contracts will be procured on a yearly basis, and renewals are pending a satisfactory performance, as determined by the Department.

1. Applicants with experience in both special education and ELA will be given preference, but applicants are welcome from individuals with experience in one or the other. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)