



## **OSEP Funds New Centers and Projects!**

*We invite you to learn more about OSEP's latest investments, described below.*

- **Research and Development Center on Developing Software to Adapt and Customize Instruction in Digital Learning Environments** is a new investment that was awarded to the Center for Applied Special Technology ([CAST](#)), Inc. This center will develop software designed to adapt and customize digital materials for children with disabilities, whether or not delivered online. The software should enable teachers to differentiate instruction to meet the diverse needs of children with disabilities.
- **Educational Materials in Accessible Formats for Students with Visual Impairments and Other Print Disabilities** was awarded to [Benetech](#). The project is called [Bookshare®](#) and provides accessible resources using an online library collection of more than 350,000 titles to more than 360,000 people with print disabilities in nearly 50 countries.
- The **National Technical Assistance Center for Inclusive Practices and Policies** was awarded to the University of Minnesota. This center will provide technical assistance (TA) to state and local education agencies on how to implement and sustain inclusive practices and policies for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in elementary and middle school programs.
- The **National Center for Development and Dissemination of Digital Open Educational Tools and Resources Supported by Evidence to Enhance Personnel Preparation and Professional Development for Educators of Students with Disabilities** was awarded to Vanderbilt University. The center is called [IRIS](#) and offers a wide variety of resources on evidence-based practices and programs, including instructional modules and research summaries primarily designed for use by college and university faculty, professional development providers, and practicing educators.
- The **National Center for Improving Teacher and Leader Performance to Better Serve Children with Disabilities** was awarded to the University of Florida. The center is called [CEEDAR](#) and help states and institutions of higher education reform their teacher and leader preparation programs, revise their licensure standards to align with reforms, refine personnel evaluation systems, and realign policy structures and professional learning systems.
- The **National Center to Enhance Educational Systems to Promote the Use of Practices Supported by Evidence** was awarded to the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. The center is called [SISEP](#) and provides content and TA to establish large-scale, sustainable, high-fidelity implementation of effective education practices to state, regional, and district educational systems to maximize academic and social outcomes of all students, especially those students with disabilities.

OSEP also announced three new investments in early childhood. These TA centers are not only used by states but also will offer a wealth of resources to practitioners and families.

- The **Early Childhood Systems Technical Assistance Center (ECTA)** was awarded to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This center will provide TA to states for building and maintaining high-quality early childhood systems equipped with supports to implement the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* consistent with its requirements. It will also support states in providing high-quality *IDEA* services for young children with disabilities and their families.
- The **Early Childhood Personnel Center (ECPC)** was awarded to the University of Connecticut Health Center. ECPC will improve the quality of personnel who serve young children with disabilities and their families by providing TA to state *IDEA* Part C and Part B, section 619 (preschool) programs for implementing high-quality comprehensive systems of personnel development (**CSPD**). It will also provide TA to faculty of institutions of higher education to develop programs of study for providing high-quality services and inclusive programs for young children with disabilities and their families.
- The **National Center for Pyramid Model Innovation** is a new investment, awarded to the University of South Florida. The center will support young children's social, emotional, and behavioral development, and reduce their challenging behaviors by developing an early childhood multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) framework. It will also support states, early childhood programs, and personnel in implementing this framework.

