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# PROFESSIONAL LEARNING GUIDE

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#### Mindset Shifts within Special Education - Part 1

Special Education can be confusing at times, but our goal is always the same: providing high quality education to all students. Listen to a conversation between Dr. Misty Parsley and Dr. Robbie Hampton of the College of Education at Lipscomb University about the importance of special education.

#### **Summary Points**

Special education is not a place

- ➤ We should think about services, not location.
- ➤ IEP teams determine what services a student needs to meet his/her goals.
- ➤ These students belong to everyone!

Have high expectations

- Grade level standards are appropriate for all students.
- ➤ Talk about what students can do, not what they can't do!
- Build on their strengths!

Collaboration is key

- Teachers, parents, and students need to work together.
- Collaboration among school staff is important for consistency and success.
- Prior planning is important for co-taught lessons.
- Paraprofessionals are valuable team members, but they are not teachers.

#### **Continue the Conversation**

"What steps can you take to improve the experience of students receiving special education services in your school?"





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### **Food for Thought** Special education is not a place What special education services are available to support students in your classroom? How can you ensure students with disabilities feel a part of your classroom community? Have high expectations What are the strengths of your students? ➤ How can you use activities they enjoy to improve student performance? Collaboration is key Who are the members of your team? ➤ What forms of communication can you use to facilitate collaboration? How can you work with your team to ensure the students' needs are met? References & Recommended Resources Kluth, P. (n.d.). Special Education is Not a Place. Retrieved April 20, 2018, from http://www.paulakluth.com/readings/inclusive-schooling/specialeducation-is-not-a-place/ Master of Education in Special Education at Lipscomb University's College of Education - https://www.lipscomb.edu/education/graduate-programs/med-programs/special-education Igniting the Dream of Education and Access at Lipscomb (IDEAL) Program https://www.lipscomb.edu/education/special-programs/ideal-program National Center for Learning Disabilities - https://www.ncld.org/ National Association of Special Education Teachers - https://www.naset.org/ Learning Disabilities Online - http://www.ldonline.org/educators **Connect with Ayers Institute** The Ayers Institute exists to support both pre-service and currentservice educators. Send your comments and questions by e-mail to

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