Become a SETTT for Success Trainer

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of SETTT for Success?

SETTT for Success is designed to improve academic outcomes for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Our approach builds trainer expertise to support teachers in delivering effective academic instruction.

Does the SETTT for Success approach include a curriculum I must follow?

No. It is not a specific student intervention and does not promote a specific curriculum. SETTT for Success is a technology-supported professional development (PD) approach, designed to help trainers identify teacher learning needs and design, deliver, and evaluate PD.

What grades and subjects are included in SETTT for Success?

SETTT for Success focuses on comprehensive academic instruction in English language arts, mathematics, and science for grades K-12. Each site chooses the specific grades and subjects they will focus on.

How can SETTT for Success help me?

Trainers come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Their job descriptions and responsibilities vary. Some trainers know the student population well, while others might be skilled at working with adult learners but know less about teaching students with significant cognitive disabilities. We recognize that trainers have limited time to compile resources and deliver PD. The SETTT for Success professional learning approach and resource collection support each trainer so they can effectively design and deliver teacher PD, regardless of their background or responsibilities.

Do you have examples of what the SETTT for Success approach looks like?

Visit the SETTT for Success recruitment page to read and learn more about how other sites have implemented the SETTT for Success program to meet their goals.

What are the trainer commitments?

Trainers will commit approximately 35 hours over 12 months in addition to the time they normally spend planning and delivering PD. Throughout the 2024-2025 school year, trainers will:

- complete several self-directed learning modules and activities.
- determine the academic content focus of PD and establish teacher learning goals.
- access a collection of high-quality, free resources that may be used for teacher PD.
- design, deliver, and evaluate teacher PD.
- participate in an online community of practice with trainers across all participating sites.
- participate in project evaluation activities, including surveys and interviews.

After the first year, trainers continue using the approach to PD, with project resources and support from the community of practice. Most trainers report that using the SETTT for Success approach gets easier and takes less time with each PD cycle.

I am new at delivering PD to teachers. Is SETTT for Success right for me?

Yes. SETTT for Success is for new and veteran trainers. Prior experience is not essential. Being open to new learning and ideas is the most important qualification.

Our trainers are called coaches. Are they eligible to participate?

Yes. We work with instructional leaders who have some responsibility for supporting teachers who provide academic instruction for students with significant cognitive disabilities. This could be as a trainer, coach, mentor, lead teacher, curriculum specialist, data coach, or administator in charge of teacher PD.

Can general education teachers join?

Most SETTT for Success trainers have experience teaching and leading in special education settings. If a site uses an inclusive or collaborative model for professional development and a trainer team that includes a general education teacher wants to join the project, that is a possibility. Ideally, general education and special education teachers work in tandem to support academic learning of their students with significant cognitive disabilities, regardless of the students' educational settings. Our approach can be used to create PD for blended teams or just for special educators.

Can we participate as a group?

Yes. If a site has a group of trainers that collaborate on PD, they may participate together to plan and deliver PD.

Can I use the PD plans I was already working on?

If your in-progress PD plan is focused on improving academic learning for students with significant cognitive disabilities, you may be able to apply what you learn through SETTT for Success to refine that PD. If your PD is on a different topic or has to be implemented before you finish the SETTT for Success trainer PD modules, you should finish that PD on your own and use SETTT for Success to help you with the next PD cycle.

Will I work with trainers in other districts?

You will join an online community of practice that includes trainers from all the participating sites. Project staff will host two virtual trainer meetings in 2025, one in the spring and one in the fall.

Who are the SETTT for Success coaches?

Coaches are project staff who are selected based on their expertise and experience working with students and/or teachers of students with significant cognitive disabilities.

What additional resources are available to me through SETTT for Success?

Trainers can access the SETTT for Success Resource Collection, supplemental modules, and other tools to sustain professional learning over time. You will have ongoing access to a community of practice for new ideas and support from other trainers. The resource collection is a curated, open-access collection of quality resources, including resources in English language arts, mathematics, science, and other topics that support teacher growth and academic instruction. Supplemental modules include topics such as presuming competence and Universal Design for Learning.

What data do you need access to?

The SETTT for Success project staff uses data from trainers and teachers (e.g., survey responses) to evaluate the project. We don't collect any student data. Trainers might need to use student data and other locally available data sources to plan for PD. They should have access to the data as part of the trainer role. If a trainer shares any data with project staff during a coaching conversation, we ask that trainers de-identify the data or share data only on groups of teachers or students.

I'm excited to join, what do I do next?

Let your site lead know you would like to be a trainer. You'll hear from the SETTT for Success project staff in fall 2024 when we are ready to onboard new trainers.