The purpose of this project is to redesign the existing graduate-level certification and Master's program in Special Education at Indiana University. A redesigned curriculum in the current Master's program at Indiana University will result in highly qualified graduates capable of improving outcomes for students with high-incidence disabilities.

Method: The project will: (a) collect formative data from key state and local educational stakeholders and recent program graduates to inform the planning process; (b) redesign the curriculum in the current Master's program to ensure that graduates acquire the skills needed to apply evidence-based practices in special education, coordinating with the National Center to Enhance the Professional Development of School Personnel; (c) work in collaboration with colleagues in mathematics, science, and language arts to redesign coursework and field work in the content areas, enabling graduates to be highly qualified in a content area while providing preservice general educators with needed skills for inclusive practice; (d) establish partnerships with key state and local stakeholders in urban, rural, and suburban settings in order to identify the needs of children with high-incidence disabilities from diverse backgrounds and design methods of preparing special educators to address those needs; (e) establish field-based training opportunities in diverse settings, especially in high-need communities and schools not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under NCLB for children with high-incidence disabilities; and (f) expand mentoring and induction support for program graduates, using an innovative integrated general and special education teacher preparation program at Indiana University (Community of Teachers) as a model. In addition, the project will partner with branch campuses of Indiana University at various locations across the state, as well as offer field and coursework through distance education at each of its campuses.
Products: