

Working with the Experts 2018 – 2019

The purpose of the Working with the Experts (WWE) project is to increase the state's capacity to prepare and retain highly qualified personnel to provide instructional and related services to students with disabilities. The initiatives for this project include the coordination of professional development (PD) activities for related service personnel (speech language pathologists), delivery and statewide leadership support for PD, and communication with faculty preparing teachers and therapists to support students with disabilities in the educational setting.

To assist in supporting improved student outcomes, the project will coordinate six regional in-person WWE activities and will provide access to online PD courses that provide the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA) continuing education units (CEUs) to speech language pathologists (SLPs). In addition, this project will provide support for and facilitate the WWE event for Coordinators/Leaders and WWE for SLP's Advisory Committee meetings. The project will coordinate ASHA CEU provision for SLP PD activities coordinated by WWE, other discretionary projects and organizations, and school districts.

The project will also update and expand the content of speech language resources located on the WWE website. Additionally, the project will provide PD activities for faculty supporting the preparation of teachers working with students with disabilities by coordinating the 2018 Florida Institute for Teacher Educators, developing and disseminating the *Plugging In* newsletter, and facilitating the delivery of webinars/professional learning communities. Finally, the project will conduct two needs assessments to determine the professional development needs and priorities of SLPs in Florida's schools and faculty in teacher preparation programs.