

Working with the Experts 2020-2021

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 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 for speech language pathologists (SLPs) and will provide access to online PD courses that offer American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA) continuing education units (CEUs) to SLPs. In addition, this project will provide support for and facilitate the WWE event for Leaders and WWE for SLPs Advisory Committee meetings. ASHA CEUs will be provided for SLP PD activities coordinated by WWE, other discretionary projects and organizations, and school districts. The project will also 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 2021 Florida Institute for Teacher Educators (FLITE), developing and disseminating the *Plugging In* newsletter, and facilitating the delivery of webinars or professional learning communities. Provision of PD for both SLPs and teacher preparation program faculty will be driven by the results of two needs assessments directed at each of these groups that will be developed and disseminated by WWE.