The Inclusionary Practices Technical Assistance Network (IPTN) is a collaboration between the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, WestEd, and education partners across Washington state. It is more than a network; it’s a transformative force shaping the future of inclusive education.

The IPTN is designed to provide high-quality guidance, technical assistance (TA), and professional development resources to districts to disrupt segregated systems of disproportionality and reduce exclusionary practices in Washington schools. This will result in improved student outcomes, with an additional focus on the outcomes and the inclusion of students served primarily in special education or self-contained settings and for Black students with disabilities.

Background of the IPTN

In 2018, Washington state ranked 44th across all 50 states for K-12 inclusive practices. To support more inclusive schools, the state Legislature funded a multi-year inclusionary practices professional development initiative focused on increasing student access to core instruction and instructional environments. The results of this work have been an overwhelming success as evidenced by students with an IEP spending 80% (LRE 1) or more of their time in inclusive instructional environments up 6.8% across the state and 20.7% for those districts serving as pilot groups actively applying the professional development areas to their work. For more information on the Inclusionary Practices Professional Development Project (IPP) please visit IPP Washington.

Given these gains, the IPTN represents the next iteration of inclusionary practice work by intentionally focusing on student groups that data shows continue to be the least likely to access inclusionary environments – those who spend the majority of their day in separate self-contained settings and Black students with an IEP, who educational systems have yet to include proportionally. The network, therefore, harnesses both federal IDEA funds for state-level initiatives and state special education funds provided by the legislature, to partner with key statewide professional organizations, in a commitment to disrupt patterns of disproportionality and exclusionary practices.

The Work of the IPTN

The IPTN is leading a dynamic systems-level transformation to eliminate exclusionary practices for all students in Washington state, with a special focus on students eligible for special education who continue to be excluded from general education settings at higher rates than their peers.
IPTN Membership — Washington State TA Providers

The IPTN is composed of Washington TA providers from the State Needs Project, ESD partners, and other key professional development providers. Partners focus on family and student experiences to reimagine how meaningful inclusion supports these populations’ rightful presence in schools, classrooms, and communities beyond what traditional methods of data reporting can accomplish alone. Ultimately, the IPTN will support providers and educators to ensure student outcomes are the driving force in the work of advancing inclusionary practices in Washington.

Partners in the IPTN work both individually and collectively to transform instructional practices and educational systems design — taking actions to make these structures supportive for these populations who are furthest from educational justice. To do this, the IPTN significantly enhances statewide capacity-building by leveraging the structures of a cascading support model as part of Washington's Multi-Tiered System of Supports framework.

Are you looking for more on the IPTN?

For more on the IPTN, please visit the link on the right.

For questions please reach out to IPTN email.