



High-Leverage Practices (HLPs) Reference List

Supporting Improved Outcomes for Students with Disabilities

What Are High-Leverage Practices (HLPs)?

High-Leverage Practices are research-based instructional and collaboration practices identified by the CEEDAR Center and the Council for Exceptional Children.

They represent the most essential actions educators take to:

- » Provide access to grade-level content
- » Deliver specially designed instruction (SDI)
- » Improve academic, behavioral, and postsecondary outcomes

Collaboration (HLP 1–3)

Working with others to support student success

1. Collaborate with professionals to increase student success
2. Organize and facilitate effective meetings with professionals and families
3. Collaborate with families to support student learning and development

Assessment (HLP 4–6)

Using data to guide instruction and decisions

4. Use multiple sources of information to develop a comprehensive understanding of students
5. Interpret and communicate assessment information with stakeholders to collaboratively design and implement educational programs
6. Use student assessment data to analyze instructional practices and guide educational decisions

Social, Emotional, and Behavioral (HLP 7–10)

Supporting behavior, engagement, and classroom environment

7. Establish a consistent, organized, and respectful learning environment
8. Provide positive and constructive feedback to guide students' learning and behavior
9. Teach social behaviors
10. Conduct functional behavioral assessments (FBA) and develop individual student behavior support plans

Instruction (HLP 11–22)

Delivering effective, inclusive, and responsive instruction

11. Identify and prioritize long- and short-term learning goals
12. Systematically design instruction toward a specific learning goal
13. Adapt curriculum tasks and materials for specific learning goals
14. Teach cognitive and metacognitive strategies to support learning and independence
15. Provide scaffolded supports
16. Use explicit instruction
17. Use flexible grouping
18. Use strategies to promote active student engagement
19. Use assistive and instructional technologies
20. Provide intensive instruction
21. Teach students to maintain and generalize new learning across time and settings
22. Provide positive and constructive feedback during instruction and intensive support

For More Information & Resources

To deepen your understanding and support implementation of High-Leverage Practices:

- » **High-Leverage Practices in Special Education (CEC & CEEDAR)**
Foundational guide describing all 22 HLPs with examples of practice
- » **CEEDAR Center Website**
Tools, crosswalks, and professional learning resources to support implementation
- » **Council for Exceptional Children Website**
Practice guides, professional standards, and additional HLP supports
- » **IRIS Center (Vanderbilt University)**
Free online modules and resources on evidence-based practices and instruction