TIES stands for:

T = Increasing Time
I = Instructional Effectiveness
E = Engagement
S = State Support for Inclusive Practices

Goals

• Improve the accessibility, efficiency, and effectiveness of existing and created instructional resources
• Support parents to become partners in the practice of inclusion for students with significant cognitive disabilities.
• Improve the capacity of partner state and local education agencies to implement inclusive practices, improve instruction, and foster communicative competence for students with significant cognitive disabilities.
• Support systems change within the leadership of state and local education agencies for implementation of inclusive practices.
• Increase the body of knowledge about inclusive policies and practices for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

The purpose of TIES Center is to create sustainable changes in K – 8 educational systems so that students with significant cognitive disabilities can fully engage in the same activities as their general education peers in a manner that supports increased engagement and improved learning outcomes.

Expected Results

• Increased time in inclusive environments
• Increased engagement across multiple settings and activities and with age appropriate typical peers
• Use of evidence-based practices to improve instruction and learning outcomes
• Increased collaboration between general and special education teachers and families
• Increased capacity of states and school personnel to support and implement inclusive policies and practices.

Knowledge Development Activities

Intended to develop a knowledge base related to inclusive practices and policies, including:

• Conduct a comprehensive review of evidence-based practices for the inclusion of students with significant cognitive disabilities
• Review state and federal policies as well as research findings in key topic areas
• Create current state profiles related to inclusion of students with significant cognitive disabilities
• Develop materials and information for parents on the research and the law.

Technical Assistance Activities

Intended to ensure that states and districts are supported to successfully implement and sustain inclusive practices. Technical assistance (TA) Tiers:

• Intensive TA – Two states will be selected to work closely with TIES personnel to address project goals. Work will involve a state leadership team and select districts within the state.
• Targeted TA – A small number of states will be selected to collaborate on a customized set of activities through state and local education agency professional learning communities.
• Universal TA – Products and services created through TIES Center work will be available to all from the TIES Center and its partners via web sites, social media, newsletters, and conferences.

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The National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) in the Institute on Community Integration at the University of Minnesota leads the TIES Center partnership. There are six collaborating partners: Arizona Department of Education, CAST, University of Cincinnati, University of Kentucky, University of North Carolina – Charlotte, and University of North Carolina – Greensboro.

TIES Center is the national technical assistance center on inclusive practices and policies for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

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TIES Center is supported primarily through a Cooperative Agreement (H326Y170004) with the Research to Practice Division, Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education. The Center is affiliated with the National Center on Educational Outcomes in the Institute on Community Integration at the College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota. Opinions expressed on this poster do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Education or Offices within it.