NOVEMBER 13, 2025 GCASE

FROM AWARENESS
TO ACTION:

SUPPORTING LOW-INCIDENCE SELF-CONTAINED

CLASSES FROM PRE-K-8TH GRADE

JESSIE M. LEYDEN, ED. S. – AUTISM/ID COORDINATOR
FULTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
LEAH CARROLL – ECSE COORDINATOR
FULTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



AGENDA



TOPIC/TASK	TIME
Agenda & Learning Targets	2 minutes
Pulse Check	3 minutes
Support Framework	5 minutes
Low Incidence Self-Contained Program Look For Tools	20 minutes
Common Classroom Supports	20 minutes
Application	5 minutes
Closing/ Q&A	5 minutes

LEARNING TARGETS





To provide participants with a better understanding of how to support students in low-incidence self-contained program classes and action steps to increase accountability within these classes



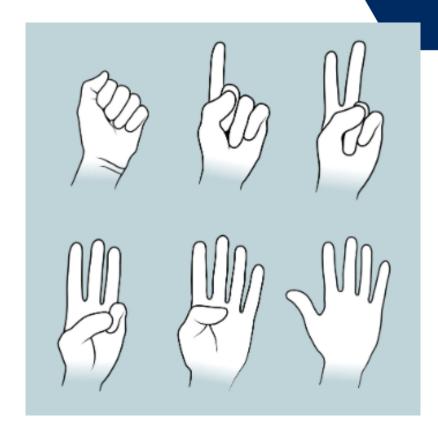
To provide participants with an outline of "look-for" components for low-incidence program classes from PreK-8th grade



Fist to Five

• New to low-incidence self-contained classes – 0

• You could teach this course - 5



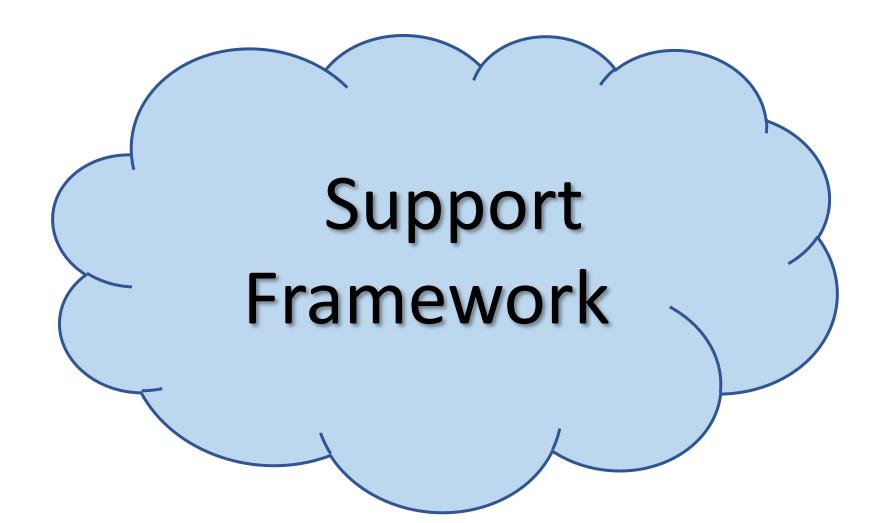
Pulse Check



- Where do you go to find support and guidance for low-incidence self-contained classes?
- What do you do first when you have a concern in one of these classes?
- What type of concerns do you typically have, or predict you might have, about your teachers in these classes?

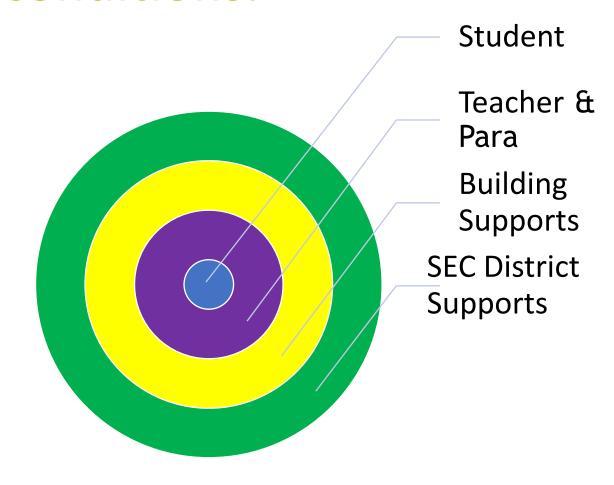












Building Blocks for our Look For Tools



Specially Designed Instruction (SDI)

Standards Based Instruction

Relationships & Routines

Instructional Tools







"Look For" Tools



KSE

PSE





Program "Look For" Tool: Preschool Special Education (PSE)

Purpose

The Program "Look For" Tool is a means to provide SEC personnel and school administrators with a structured and systematic approach to observe and evaluate Preschool Special Education (PSE) programs. This tool aims to enhance the effectiveness of PSE programs by offering a clear framework of the programs' core components.

Observation Details

Date	School	
Teacher	Program	
Start Time:	End Time:	

Domain	Indicator	Rati	ng
	Teacher has a visual schedule posted and marks the passing of time.	□Yes	□ No
	Teacher has behavioral expectations and rules visible and reviews them often with the whole class.	□Yes	□ No
Relationships	Teacher provides positive and specific feedback to all students.	□Yes	□ No
and Routines	Families are visually represented in the classroom (photos posted, class book, etc.).	□Yes	□ No



Program "Look For" Tool: Kindergarten Special Needs (KSE)

Purpose

The *Program "Look For" Tool* is a rating scale that provides SEC personnel and school administrators with a structured and systematic approach to observe and evaluate Kindergarten Special Education (KSE) programs. This tool aims to enhance the effectiveness of KSE programs by offering a clear framework of the programs' core components.

Observation Details

Date	School	
Teacher	Program	
Start Time:	End Time:	

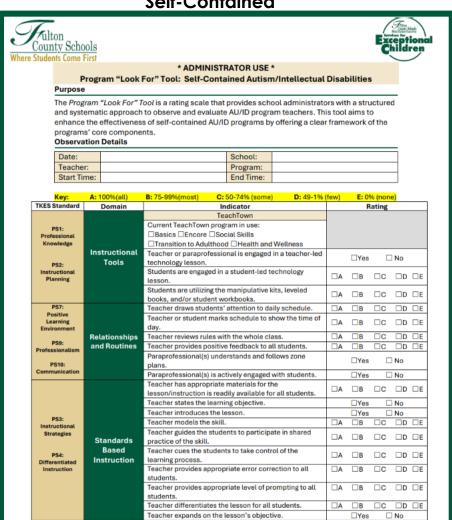
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	Domain	Indicator	Rating				
		Wonders					
		Instruction is evident	□Yes □ No				
		Instruction is aligned to lesson plans for the day	□Yes □ No				
		Teacher at the correct pace. If not, the teacher has	□Yes □ No				
		sufficient reasoning					
		Heggerty					
		Instruction is evident	□Yes □ No				
		Instruction is aligned to lesson plans for the day	□Yes □ No				
		Teacher on correct pace. If not, teacher has sufficient reasoning	□Yes □ No				

"Look For" Tools



Self-Contained



AU Support





* ADMINISTRATOR USE *

SEC Program "Look For" Tool: Autism Support

Purpose

The Program "Look For" Tool is a rating scale that provides SEC personnel and school administrators with a structured and systematic approach to observe and evaluate Autism Support programs. This tool aims to enhance the effectiveness of Autism Support programs by offering a clear framework of the programs' core components.

Observation Details

Date:	School:	
Teacher:	Program:	
Start Time:	End Time:	

Key:	A: 100% (all)	B: 75-99%(most)_ C: 50-74% (some)_ D: 49-1%	(few)-	E: 0	96 (non	e)	
TKES Standard	Domain	Indicator		F	Rating		
		Programs					
PS1:		Current program in use:	1				
Professional		☐Lindamood Bell ☐ Numeracy Project					
Knowledge	Instructional	☐Social Thinking ☐Other:					
	Tools	Teacher or paraprofessional incorporates technology,		□Yes		l No	
P52: Instructional		in moderation, within daily instruction.		Lites		INO	
		Students are utilizing the manipulatives, leveled books,	ПΑ	□в	По	Пρ	Пе
Planning		and/or student workbooks.	ЦА	ПВ	ПС	ПП	шЕ
		Teacher draws students' attention to daily schedule,					
PS7: Positive		including providing advanced warning prior to	ΠA	□B	ПС		□E
Learning		transitioning.					
Environment		With prompting or support as needed, student marks	ПΑ	□в	Пс	Пρ	Пе
P59:		individual student schedule to build independence.					
Professionalism	Relationships	Teacher regularly reviews rules and expectations with		□Yes □ No			
	and Routines	the whole class.					
PS10:		Teacher provides positive feedback to all students.	ΠA	□в	ПС		ΠE
Communication		Paraprofessional(s) understands and follows zone			res □ No		
		plans.				2140	
		Teacher provides consistent, positive reinforcers	ПΑ	□B	ПС	ΠD	ПЕ
		aligned to students' interests and/or preferences.					
		Teacher has appropriate materials for the	ПΑ	□в	Пс		ПЕ
		lesson/instruction is readily available for all students.					
		Teacher states the learning objective.		□Yes] No	
PS3:		Teacher introduces the lesson.		□Yes] No	
Instructional		Teacher models the skills, as appropriate, to support	ΠA	□в	ПС		ПΕ
Strategies	Standards	student understanding.					
	Based	Teacher guides the students to participate in shared					
PSA:	Instruction	practice of the skill, as appropriate to support student	□A	□в			ΠE
Differentiated	Instruction	understanding.					
Instruction		Teacher provides appropriate error correction to all	ПΑ	□в	Пο	ΠD	ПЕ
		students.					
		Teacher provides appropriate level of prompting to all	ΠA	□в	ПС		ΠE
		students.	l				
		Teacher differentiates the lesson for all students.	ΠA	□в		Πn	ПΕ

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TKES Alignment



- Take a few minutes to look through the "Look For" Tools
- Anything you notice? Wonder?

 Do you think these indicators help give you a better idea for how to rate teachers on TKES for performance management?



Let's Practice Using the Protocol...









Program "Look For" Tool: Preschool Special Education (PSE)

Purpose

The Program "Look For" Tool is a means to provide SEC personnel and school administrators with a structured and systematic approach to observe and evaluate Preschool Special Education (PSE) programs. This tool aims to enhance the effectiveness of PSE programs by offering a clear framework of the programs' core components.

Observation Details

Date	School	
Teacher	Program	
Start Time:	End Time:	

Domain	Indicator	Ratin	ıg 🚺
	Teacher has a visual schedule posted and marks the passing of time.	□Yes	□No
	Teacher has behavioral expectations and rules visible and reviews them often with the whole class.	□Yes	□No
Relationships	Teacher provides positive and specific feedback to all students.	□Yes	□ No
and Routines	Families are visually represented in the classroom (photos posted, class book, etc).	□Yes	□ No

SEC Program Class Support Planning Protocol

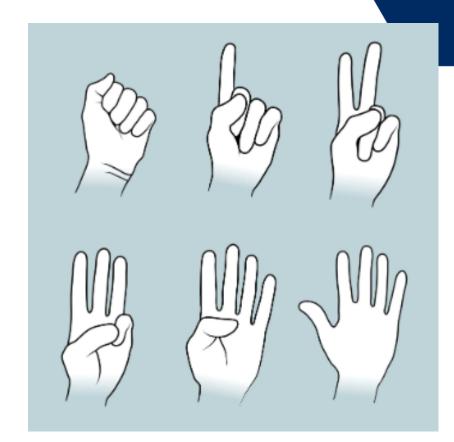
TKES Standards	Domain	Characteristics that strengthen classroom effectiveness	Characteristics that weaken classroom effectiveness	Tools for aligning understanding of effective classroom characteristics	Support Source
☐ PS1: Professional Knowledge ☐ PS2: Instructional Planning	☐ Instructional Tools			□District approved instructional guidance □District approved instructional tools □Grade Level SMF Learning Map	□Peer Model □Grade Level Chair □Department Chair □Math/Lit Coach □CST □Other:
☐ PS7: Positive Learning Environment ☐ PS9: Professionalism ☐ PS10: Communication	☐ Relationships and Routines			□ Daily schedule □ Visuals for daily schedule □ Visuals for daily rules □ Student feedback tool □ Zone Plan □ Reinforcer Inventory □ Positive Classroom Management System	□Peer Model □Grade Level Chair □Department Chair □Math/Lit Coach □CST □IST □SDI Coach □Other:
PS3: / Strate	dards Based			□Grade Level SMF Learning Map □Grade Level Curriculum Map □Grade Level Scope & Sequence □Grade Level Lesson Plans □Teacher's Lesson Plan □M/ differentiation □Small Group Lesson Plan □Grade Level planning meeting attendance □Grade Level PLC attendance □Error Correction strategies □Prompt Hierarchy □Assessment Plan □Assessment Data Analysis	□Peer Model □Grade Level Chair □Department Chair □Math/Lit Coach □CST □IST □SDI Coach □Other:
Planning				Student Eligibility Information Student IEP	□Peer Model □Grade Level Chair



Fist to Five

 Do not have a strong grasp on this yet or don't see how it can benefit teams in my district – 0

 Feeling comfortable and confident with the ideas and think it could be beneficial – 5







Building Blocks for our Look For Tools



SDI

Standards Based Instruction

Relationships & Routines

Instructional Tools

Common Concerning Classroom Conditions



Conditions impacting Characteristics: classroom success:

Teacher Growth:

- Teacher is unprepared by their background and requires much learning related to the SEC Core Behaviors.
- Teacher may have the skill set, but does not have the will.
- Teacher does not follow through with strategies being modeled.
- Teacher's instruction is having little impact on student outcomes.

Common Supports for Classroom Conditions



Conditions impacting classroom success:	Common Next Steps for Support:
	 Identify a go-to person for day to day thought partnering, moral support, and problem solving.
Teacher Growth:	 Ensure they know purpose of support for people in their classroom.
	 Identify bite size, specific areas for growth.
	 Observe teacher in action and provide specific feedback.
	 Have prescheduled check-ins with reminders in between.

Instructional Tools



	Programs						
	Current program in use:						
	Lindamood Bell Numeracy Project						
Instructional	□Social Thinking □Other:						
Tools	Teacher or paraprofessional incorporates technol						
	in moderation, within daily instruction.						
	Students are utilizing the manipulative						
	and/or student workbooks.				Curric		
Gra					C	6 6	
	Level	Ch	air		Su		
	TeachTown				Tea	acl	
	Current TeachTown program in use:						
	□Basics □Encore □Social Skills						
	\square Transition to Adulthood \square Health and Wellness	ı					
Instructional	Teacher or paraprofessional is engaged in a teacher-led		□Vaa		l N.a	1	
Tools	technology lesson.		□Yes	L] No		
	Students are engaged in a student-led technology	ПА	ПВ	ПС	\Box D \Box F		
	lesson.	⊔A	□ D				
	Students are utilizing the manipulative kits, leveled		ПВ	ПС	\Box D \Box E		
	books, and/or student workbooks.		⊔₽				

ulum ort ner

Math Coach, Lit Coach

Program SDI Coach, Program IST

Building Blocks for our Look For Tools



SDI

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Common Concerning Classroom Conditions



Conditions	impacting
classroom	success:

Characteristics:

Classroom staff roles and communication:

- Teacher and para are not intentionally communicating about instructional plans.
- Classroom staff do not know their roles and responsibilities.
- Collaboration with therapist/related service providers is either not occurring or is limited.
- Classroom staff do not have a positive working relationship.

Common Supports for Classroom Conditions



Conditions	impacting
classroom	success:

Common Next Steps for Support:

Classroom staff roles and communication:

- Determine if the Zone Plan needs to be updated and if it is being adhered to.
- Determine when teacher is reviewing zone plan and lesson plan responsibilities with classroom paras.
- Use a day/week in review protocol to foster communication with teacher/paras.

Common Concerning Classroom Conditions



Conditions	impacting
classroom	success:

Characteristics:

Classroom
Management/Positive
Behavior Supports:

- Classroom Environment is not set up to facilitate student engagement.
- Zone Plan and other essential structures are not in place.
- Schedule is inconsistent, varying day to day.
- Staff is not using positive behavior supports to address specific concerns.

Common Supports for Classroom Conditions



	where Students Come First
Conditions impacting classroom success:	Common Next Steps for Support:
	Complete classroom essentials checklists and identify areas for growth.
Classroom Management/Positive	 Rearrange classroom environment to support routines, expectations, and engagement.
Behavior Supports:	 Review classroom schedule, update as needed, follow up to see if it is being adhered to.
	 Determine if classroom staff requires training to

trainings that are needed.

provide positive behavior supports, including any BIP

Relationships and Routines



Domain	Indicator	Rating		ng
	Teacher has a visual schedule posted and marks the passing of time.		/es	□No
	Teacher has behavioral expectations and rules visible and reviews them often with the whole class.		/es	□No
Relationships	Teacher provides positive and specific feedback to all		/es	5
and Routines	students.			
and noutines	Families are visually represented in the classroom			
	(photos posted, class book, etc).			Pee
	Paraprofessional(s) understands and follows zone	П		
	plans.			Dep
	Paraprofessional(s) is actively engaged with students.			

Peer Model, Department Chair

Building IST, CST

Program SDI Coach

Behavior Leads, Program IST

	reacher has a visual schedule posted and ma.		
	the passing of time.		
	Teacher has behavioral expectations and rules		
Relationships	visible and reviews them often with the whole	□Yes	□ No
and Routines	class.		
and noutines	Teacher provides positive feedback to all	□Yes	□ No
	students.		
	Families are visually represented in the classroom	□Yes	□ No
	(photos posted, class book, etc.)		
	Paraprofessional(s) understands and follows zone	□Yes	□ No
	plans.	□163	
	Paraprofessional(s) is actively engaged with	□Yes	□ No
	students.	□ res	





SDI

Standards Based Instruction

Relationships & Routines

Instructional Tools

Common Concerning Classroom Conditions



Conditions impacting Characteristics: classroom success:

Standards Based Instruction:

Minimal rate of learning for most students.

- Staff is either unfamiliar with or not utilizing our county specific guidance for instructional planning.
- Planning for instruction is not occurring or plans do not match what is actually occurring in the classroom.
- There is no apparent basis for instructional planning and no evidence of progress monitoring.

Common Supports for Classroom Conditions



Conditions	impacting
classroom s	success:

Common Next Steps for Support:

Standards Based Instruction:

- Utilize Exemplar lesson plans, Weekly Spirals, Grade level plans, and/or Daily PPTs.
- Create protected time to review Program resources and expectations with classroom staff.

Standards Based Instruction



	Teacher has appropriate materials for the lesson/instruction is readily available for all students.	
	Teacher states the learning objective.	
	Teacher introduces the lesson.	
	Teacher models the skill.	
Standards	Teacher guides the students to participa practice of the skill.	
Based Instruction	Teacher cues the students to tallearning process.	

learning process.

Teacher provides appropriate e students.

Teacher provides appropriate le students.

Teacher differentiates the lesse

Teacher expands on the lesson

Peer Model, Department Chair

Building IST, CST

Program SDI Coach

Program IST





SDI

Standards Based Instruction

Relationships & Routines

Instructional Tools

Common Concerning Classroom Conditions



Conditions impacting classroom success:	Characteristics:
	 Staff is not implementing BIP with fidelity or does not know if there is a BIP.
Student performance:	 Students do not know the routines, rules, or expectations.
	 One or more students are engaging in high levels of behaviors which endanger themselves, classmates and/or staff.
	 Minimal progress monitoring is occurring to determine rate of student growth.

Common Supports for Classroom Conditions



Conditions impacting classroom success:	Common Next Steps for Support:
Student performance:	 Review of progress monitoring data. Review of IEP to determine whether an amendment is appropriate. Determine if classroom staff requires training to implement instructional accommodations and/or modifications. Determine if classroom staff requires training to implement BIP.

Common Concerning Classroom Conditions



Conditions impacting Characteristics: classroom success:

Instructional
Planning,
Implementing and
Monitoring of SDI:

- Lesson plans are not submitted or are incomplete lacking required components.
- Planning for SDI is not occurring.
- Progress monitoring activities may occasionally occur for compliance purposes only.
- There is no apparent basis for instructional decisions.

Common Supports for Classroom Conditions



Conditions impacting classroom success:	Common Next Steps for Support:
Instructional Planning, Implementing and Monitoring of SDI:	 IEP and/or CLP review to ensure appropriate SDI is in lesson plans. Identify specific time of day explicit instructional opportunities are occurring for goals/objectives. Determine how classroom staff is collecting data and if they require additional training to do so. Determine when classroom staff is analyzing data and if they require additional training to do so.

Specially Designed Instruction



Specially Designed Instruction #1

Teacher plans and prepares materials for life skills instruction for all students.

Zone plans are created, posted, followed, and provided to all classroom staff members.

Planning

Teacher collaborates with colleagues to plan explicit and systematic specially designed instruction that targets students' IEP goals/objectives and provides access to standards-based

Teacher plans for SDI by utilizing the Caseload Learning Plan specific to each student.

Behavior interventions are prepared and readily available.

Behaviors interventions are aligned to st applicable).

Teacher collaborates with key st related service providers) on sur

Teacher plans for progress mon goals and objectives (G/O), diag formative assessments for all st

A classroom management syste expectations and procedures.

Peer Model, Department Chair

Building IST

Program SDI Coach

Behavior Interventionist, **Program IST**

Specially Designed Instruction #4

instruction.

Data collection system exists a Data collection system is consi

student progress on IEP goals a

Data collection system contains

that align to students' goals and objective

Data collection is utilized to inform adjustments to specially designed instruction.

Evidence suggests students are demonstrating progress towards mastery.

Student work samples are analyzed to describe level of prompting needed to complete task.

Data is organized in a format that is easily shared with multiple stakeholders.

Monitoring

Teacher utilizes ongoing progress monitoring data and diagnostic assessment data to inform adjustments to specially designed

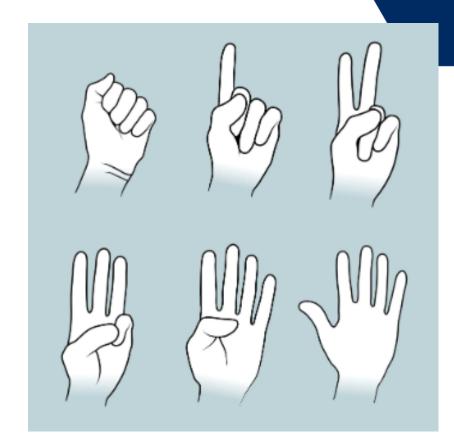
instruction.



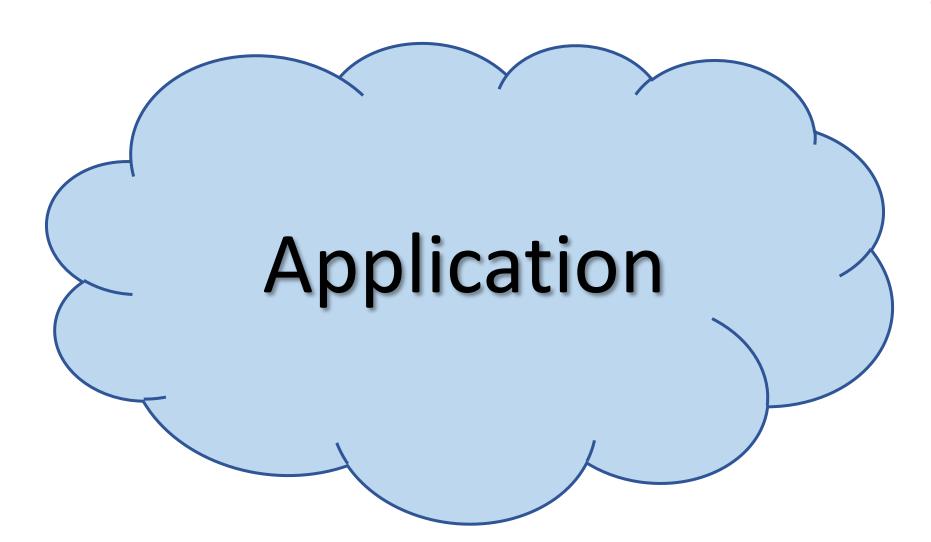
Fist to Five

 Do not have a strong grasp on this yet or don't see how it can benefit teams in my district – 0

 Feeling comfortable and confident with the ideas and think it could be beneficial – 5







What now?

Bring everyone together

- Get everyone involved in supporting this student and/or staff together at the same time
- Let everyone share their perspective

Ground everyone in something objective

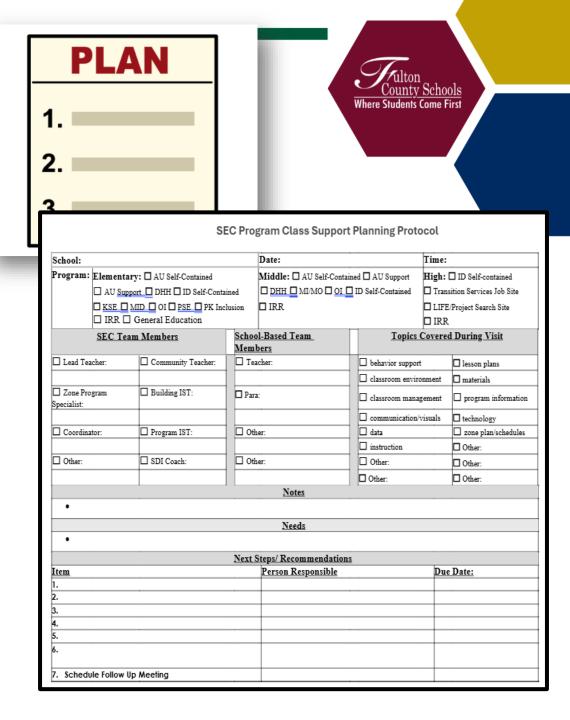
 What are we using to calibrate the team on expectations and basis for the support we are outlining?

Ensure everyone knows their role

- O What support needs to happen?
- O How do we check that each team member knows their role?

Have a follow up plan

- When will the team come back together to assess progress?
- O What will you do in between to ensure the plan stays on track?





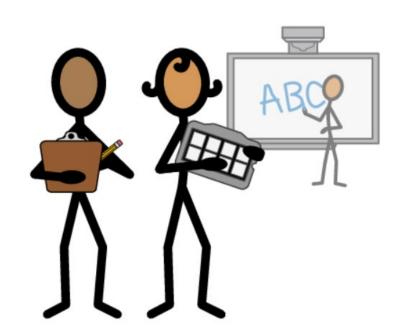


Instructional Tools

Relationships and Routines

Standards Based Instruction

Specially Designed Instruction





Next Steps

 What is a next step you can take in support of your low-incidence self-contained program classes?



 Who, besides your building-level Special Education lead, will you leverage for support in your building?







If you need anything, please call/email/text!

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