Accessibility and Inclusion Lab

Purpose and Mission

James Madison University's College of Education's Educational Foundations & Exceptionalities (EFEX) Department and the VDOE Region 5 Training and Technical Assistance Center has developed an **Accessibility and Inclusion Lab.** Pre-service and in-service educators can demonstrate special education high-leverage practices, conduct research, and explore instructional and assistive technologies. A range of assistive technology, including low-tech to high-tech devices, are available for exploration across different instructional areas. The flexible and accessible design of the lab reflects a universal design for learning to support students with disabilities in navigating their environment and education thus increasing student autonomy, engagement, and motivation.

Teaching, Research, and Service Missions of the University

The College of Education's vision is "to be a model for transforming educational landscapes into those that develop and inspire learners, educators, and leaders to effect positive, sustainable change." The lab supports this vision as it seeks to provide a space and resources to encourage connections, collaborations, and confidence in our JMU community as they become partners in pursuing positive outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

In addition to classes, opportunities are available to support our students, faculty, educators, and community in growing their awareness and skills. These include:

- open classroom hours,
- trainings and workshops, and
- device demonstrations.

Lab Design Features

High Leverage Practices

Flexible & Accessible Design

Assistive Technology

VDOE TTAC at JMU — Linking People and Resources

JMU College of Education

High Leverage Practices (HLPs) for Special Education

The lab will focus on HLPs implementation, observation/feedback, and alignment.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of HLPs will be observed and demonstrated in the lab through content instruction, instructor modeling, and a variety of video series, including the HLP online teacher video series.

HLP VIDEO SERIES

OBSERVATION/FEEDBACK

Observation of HLP implementation and feedback is supported. A variety of checklists, rubrics, and observation tools are available to guide the observation and feedback process. A web-based app tool designed to observe HLPs is available to support this goal.

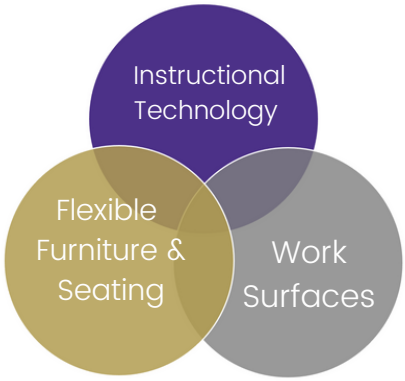
WEB-BASED TOOL

ALIGNMENT

Alignment between High Leverage Practices for General Education, High Leverage Practices for Special Education, and Principal Leadership for the Success of Students with Disabilities is supported.

CROSSWALK

Flexible and Acccessible Design



The lab is designed to reflect a universal design for learning with state-of-the-art flexible and adaptable surfaces and furniture. A variety of work surfaces, instructional technology, seating options, and storage options have been included in the classroom design to assist teacher candidates and educators in exploring a flexible learning environment. Opportunities are provided to engage in decision-making around instructional design that addresses accessibility and inclusion of all students.

Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology to EXPLORE:

- Communication
- Auditory Processing
- Reading & Writing
- Spelling
- Mathematics
- Executive Functioning
- Behavior
- Sensory
- Technology Access
- Environmental Controls
- Positioning, Seating, & Mobility
- Daily Living
- Recreation/Leisure

Assistive Technology is one of the twenty-two high-leverage practices for special education and part of IDEA. The lab has a range of low-tech to high-tech devices and low-budget to high-budget options that can be explored, created, and demonstrated.

Check out our lab Inventory