

## Professional development to increase academic achievement of students with significant cognitive disabilities.

### Case Study



#### The Client

Indiana Department of Education

#### The Project

Project SUCCESS: Indiana Resource Center for Increasing Academic Instruction for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities.

#### The Opportunity

In partnership with the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), Public Consulting Group (PCG) created a statewide resource center to support the academic achievement of students with disabilities and support teachers and administrators in the transition to a new, more rigorous alternate assessment.

#### The PCG Approach

The central goal of PCG's Project SUCCESS is to provide districts and schools with technical assistance as they implement a standards-based instruction for students with significant cognitive disabilities. With the creation of a statewide resource center, Project SUCCESS provides local educational agencies (LEAs) with guidance and support to help students achieve higher academic outcomes and leave high school ready for post-secondary options. The resource center is building capacity and a statewide system of support.

#### Training Topics

- Curriculum mapping with Alternate Achievement Standards
- Identifying access points for students with significant cognitive disabilities
- Writing IEP goals aligned to grade level content standards
- Meeting communication needs of all students

#### The Result

##### Key PCG achievements include:

- Establishing and staffing of Project SUCCESS resource center that delivers universal and targeted professional development through online resources, monthly webinars, and on-site technical assistance both statewide and directly to LEAs
- Managing and leading annual regional summer institutes with unique sessions for teachers, administrators, and speech language pathologists, and delivering onsite professional development individualized to meet the needs of local LEAs
- Maintaining Project SUCCESS website to provide users with access to professional development materials, webinars, and resources created in collaboration with IDOE that support teachers implementing Indiana's Alternate Achievement Standards
- Supporting IDOE efforts to communicate changes in alternate assessment and providing ongoing support to LEAs preparing students for the next generation assessment
- Active and ongoing participation in state level initiative to redefine the alternate diploma and design of related guidance documents
- Collaboration with key stakeholders in the development of guidance in response to Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Dear Colleague Letters as they relate to students with significant cognitive disabilities