

NEWS & VIEWS

Tips. Research. Best Practices. Community.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

REVIEWING THE BEST PRACTICES OF 2023

A new year means a new beginning. We reflect on the past year, set goals, and look ahead to the future. As we reflect on 2023, we realize that we've learned a lot! From IEPs to **career readiness** techniques, last year was full of learning new best practices and incredible tips from the field. In our **January Webinar Wednesday**, we highlighted some of the things we learned throughout 2023.



We're happy to have **Joyce Whitby** as our [January Webinar Wednesday](#) guest speaker. A passionate educator and solutions engineer, Joyce works with Education Associates to identify the best Career Exploration, Job Skills Training and Life Skills solutions for each educational organization.

[WATCH OUR BEST OF 2023 WEBINAR HERE](#)

Here are some of our **key takeaways** from our 2023 Webinar Wednesdays:



POWER IN NUMBERS

It takes a village to educate students! We learned the power of leveraging a **strong community** when it comes to all aspects of education for both general and special populations.

- Build a [sense of pride and unity](#) by involving therapists, teachers, and other departments. When a team is working toward a **unified goal**, the students benefit!
- Partner with [local businesses](#) to help students find job placements. Getting a **sense of the community** early can ease their transition period.
- Getting **buy-in from parents** can make a world of difference! They can re-enforce what you are teaching in the classroom.



Student-based enterprises strengthen school culture while teaching entrepreneurial skills.



DRIVEN BY DATA

Statistics and data should be the driving factor in all that we do. When we have good data, we can make good decisions! Here are some ways that we can utilize data we collect:

- IEPs require [careful documentation](#) and data collection. Tracking student progress should be a crucial part of evaluation.
- **Data** can help support your ideas for implementing systemic change, like [decreasing dropout rates](#) or changing teacher:student ratios.
- **Set goals** for your students that are attainable based off of data you've collected from them.



Students worked in a nursery setting after completing Project Discovery Child Care kits. This curriculum was implemented district-wide to help decrease dropout rates.



THOUGHTFUL IN EXECUTION

While we want to create robust transition programs, we must also be **thoughtful** and **practical** when it comes to how we build our strategy. Our programs should positively impact students in order to be effective!

- Give students [multiple avenues](#) for **career exploration**. Students may love the idea of certain jobs, but there may be components they haven't considered until they "try it on" for themselves.
- Put student **safety first** in placements. There should be clear expectations outlined with both the employer and student regarding activities that are appropriate for work study.
- Great programs are not built overnight. [Start small](#), see what works for your students, and make adjustments!



Teachers partner with local businesses, like car washes, to create job placement opportunities for their students.



MAKE USE OF RESOURCES

Resources are meant to be used, so take advantage of them! Sometimes we miss out on resources because we don't know where to find them! Here are different categories of resources to look for:

- Unique teaching strategies
- New technology for your classroom
- Alternative funding sources

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

Education Associates has a myriad of resources for you! We offer **hands-on, evidence-based** [career exploration](#) and [life skills](#) curriculum to help ALL students become ready for work & ready for life. In addition, we offer:

- support in [locating funds](#) to build the program of your dreams
- [free monthly webinars](#) to learn from other professionals in the field
- [credentialing options](#) to support your students post-graduation

ASK US MORE

HAVE A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR SOLUTIONS

DOWNLOAD A PREVIEW PACKET



SEE HOW PROJECT DISCOVERY CAN MEET YOUR CAREER EDUCATION NEEDS!



(1 minute video)

EXPLORE

LOOKING FOR MORE BEST PRACTICES?

Sit back, relax and watch our past *Webinar Wednesdays* at home.

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Education Associates | P.O. Box 23308, Louisville, KY 40223

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Sent by timothyhagan@educationassociates.com