

NEWS & VIEWS

Tips. Research. Best Practices. Community.



This school year we have learned so much from our Webinar Wednesday guests! From Dropout Prevention strategies, free resources, and community partnerships, we've covered a range of topics with some incredible speakers!

We're taking a break from Webinar Wednesday next month, but we'll be returning in August! Click below to register for our August Webinar, STEM for Special Ed!

education: associates
Job Ready. Life Ready.®

WEBINAR WEDNESDAY

STEM FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

REGISTER NOW

www.educationassociates.com/resources/webinar-wednesdays

ANON E. MUSS
Mystery Speaker

Follow along on social media and solve puzzles to discover our speaker's identity!

As we say hello to summer, we're re-capping some of our favorite tips from this year! Here are some of our **key takeaways** from our 2023-2024 School Year's Webinar Wednesdays:

CREATE AN ACTION PLAN

Before change for job and life readiness can take place, there must first be a plan. This can take place on a small team meeting, at a building-wide level, or even a district or regional level. Regardless of scale, there must be a system in place. Here are some ways you can start generating a plan:

- Strategically set goals that make sense for your student populations. Want to [decrease dropout](#)? Think about the steps to achieve your goal in the short and long term.
- Think about the different [sub-populations](#) you serve. What stakeholders you need to engage with to be successful?
- Get everyone on the same page. What is the shared vision everyone can get behind?



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

DID YOU KNOW?

We have built-in data collection tools & reporting that meet WIOA and Pre-ETS requirements!

Item	Yes	No
1. Student completed WIOA assessment		
2. Student completed Pre-ETS assessment		
3. Student completed career exploration		
4. Student completed job readiness training		
5. Student completed resume writing		
6. Student completed interview skills training		
7. Student completed job application process		
8. Student completed job placement		
9. Student completed job retention		
10. Student completed job satisfaction survey		
11. Student completed job performance review		
12. Student completed job advancement		
13. Student completed job termination		
14. Student completed job re-entry		
15. Student completed job exit survey		

EMBRACE STUDENT INTEREST

Students will be much more motivated to participate in activities they enjoy. Be intentional about allowing students to explore their career interests, but balance it by teaching skills they need. You can do this by:

- Teaching [transferrable skills](#). Even if their career path changes, skills like interviewing, communication, and hygiene will still be useful.
- Enabling students to make personalized goals. A sense of direction and purpose can do wonders for student motivation.
- Letting them fail. [Resiliency](#) is one of the most useful abilities a student can master, and it will give them the tenacity to try again after a failure.



Students learn about seed germination to prepare for planting a garden.

VARY THEIR EXPERIENCES

It is important to give students exposure to a variety of experiences in your classroom in both job prep and life skills training. How can students find a career they will enjoy if they are unaware of their options? Or how can a student successfully live independently if they don't know all that entails? Here are some ways to provide unique and varied experiences for your students:

- Dr. Nixon recommended splitting your planning across [vocational exploration](#), assessment, and training to ensure that students understand what is required for a job before jumping in.
- Vary the types of [career-related](#) activities you offer. Some options could include student enterprises, job shadowing, or virtual simulations.
- Use situation cards or scripted practice for life skills such as scheduling a doctor's appointment or other social interactions. This is particularly effective for students with autism.



Students practice hands-on job tasks at a career fair to learn about different career paths available to them.

HAVE A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR SOLUTIONS

[DOWNLOAD A PREVIEW PACKET](#)



MEET THEM WHERE THEY ARE

You'll want to make sure that your career exploration and life skills programming is inclusive and that students at ALL functioning levels can benefit from it. Here are some easy ways to ensure you get the maximum benefit from your curriculum:

- Understand the supports your students need for success. Do they need accommodations? Is there a struggle with sensitivities? Should we tackle any other barriers to their success first?
- Use [research-backed](#) best practices, like visual schedules, verbal behavior training, and systematic instruction.
- Consider a pre-made, hands-on program that includes assessments, lesson plans, and differentiated materials!

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE TIP FROM THIS SCHOOL YEAR'S WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS?

Click the icons below to let us know on social media!





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

LOOKING FOR MORE BEST PRACTICES?

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

CLICK HERE



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