



Project ACRES

[Project ACRES](#) (Addressing Emergency Certification in Rural Education Settings) is a **fully virtual** support system, developed by researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Education, early career special educators working in rural schools who are in their first three years of teaching. This includes special educators working with an emergency certification (e.g., a temporary license or a license with stipulations) as well as teachers who are fully licensed. Project ACRES is not a licensure program and we work to compliment whatever licensure program teachers are enrolled in.

What will a new special educator get from Project ACRES?

ACRES professional development (PD) is made up of virtual coaching and an online community of practice. ACRES PD focuses specifically on supporting new special educators to support students who have challenging behaviors.

- **Individualized Virtual Coaching:** Teachers receive individualized coaching from an experienced special educator (approximately 30 minutes 3 times a month). Coaching is focused on helping teachers to support students who have challenging behaviors.
- **Community of Practice:** We work with teachers bi-weekly after school hours in a virtual community of practice that includes teachers, coaches, and a facilitator from our team. Teachers share experiences, ask questions, problem-solve and create community together.

Do I/Does my School District Qualify for Project ACRES?

In order to qualify for Project ACRES, you must (a) be working as a special educator with less than three years of experience at the time of the intervention, and (b) be teaching in a rural school district. Check this [list of school districts](#). The list will vary by state and will contain the list of rural districts in that state that qualify for ACRES.



How many spaces are available for the 2023-24 school year?

- During 2023-24, we will have space to work with ~50 special education teachers.
- 25 teachers will receive the ACRES intervention and 25 will be in a comparison group.
 - We hope to provide the intervention to teachers assigned to the comparison group in the 2024-25 school year; however, this will be subject to available funding.

What else will be asked of Project ACRES teachers?

- **Teachers will be asked to complete several surveys** over the course of their participation about their background, self-efficacy, burnout, and intent to stay in the profession. We also complete interviews with them at the beginning and end of their participation.
- **To assess impact on classroom instructional practice**, teachers will be asked to complete three video observations. Teachers will record a brief video of their own instruction and then allow coaches and our research team to view the video for observation and coaching purposes (videos belong to the teacher—coaches/researchers will not keep a copy of these videos).

How is Project ACRES Funded? Is there any cost to teachers, schools or school districts?

- Project ACRES is a research project that is funded by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES).
- Teachers will be asked to be participants in the research project as a part of their participation in Project ACRES.
- There is no cost to teachers, schools, or school districts to participate in Project ACRES.
- **Teachers will be paid \$500 each** for their participation regardless of whether they are assigned to the intervention group or the comparison group.

For more information or to sign up for 2023-24 contact:

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