

History

The regional Professional Development Partnerships (PDP) were established in 1994, to implement the state's personnel development system requirements related to exceptional student education and to address the needs of individual school districts within regions.



In 1998, due to the success of the partnerships, the Bureau increased Part B funding to empower the partnerships to address statewide professional development priorities based on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The increased funding was used for pre-service and continuing education training designed to build skills and knowledge of exceptional student education (ESE) teachers.

In 2001, Florida was awarded a five year grant by the U.S. Department of Education through Part D of the IDEA. The State Improvement Grants (SIG) were established to assist State Education Agencies in reforming and improving their personnel preparation and professional development systems for teachers, principals, administrators, related services personnel, paraprofessionals, and early intervention personnel. The priority was to improve educational results for children with disabilities through the delivery of high quality instruction and the recruitment, hiring, and retention of highly qualified special education teachers. Florida's SIG activities were implemented through the regional Professional Development Partnerships.

A component was added to the PDP project in 2006 that supported activities to increase linkages between Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services and university special education and general education departments. With the addition of the highly qualified teacher requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) the partnerships' focuses changed from supporting professional development opportunities to increasing the state's capacity to recruit, prepare, and retain highly qualified personnel who provide special education and related services to children with disabilities through university coursework and programs; resulting in a change in the name from "Professional" to "Personnel" Development Partnerships. For more information contact Lezlie Cline at Lezlie@fcim.org.

In 2006, the U.S. Department of Education awarded Florida a new five year State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG). The SPDG contributes to the development of highly qualified personnel by supporting a statewide network of professionals who collaborate to provide quality personnel development activities. The SPDG provides a multi-system process that coordinates teacher preparation and staff development programs for professionals teaching students with disabilities. The activities are implemented through the partnerships. For more information contact Dr. Lori Massey at lmasssey@irsc.edu.