



Frequently Asked Questions

What type of license do I have to have?

Due to the intensity of our program, you must have proof of prior pedagogy by way of a standard teaching license. While this program falls under the transition to teach umbrella, this is a specific requirement this program was approved under.

Can I use this program to gain my first initial teaching license?

No, this program is not approved for the conditions required to achieve your initial teaching license. You must hold an active Indiana standard teaching license to apply for ASSET.

Can I be an SLP?

You must hold a standard teaching license. An SLP license will not suffice for adding special education Mild or Intense to your SLP professional services license.

Will my charter school license suffice?

It will not, you must have a standard teaching license.

I have a conflict with one of the dates, what do I do?

You will need to reschedule your event or wait for the next cohort cycle. ALL dates are mandatory due to the intensity of the program. You cannot be approved for licensing without having been exposed to the content and providing evidence of your understanding of that content.

I am a school leader and want to add special education to my license, do I qualify for this program?

You do, so long as you have a standard license and can carry a caseload of students at TOR during the cohort you wish to join.

Is the program really free, what are my commitments?

The program is FREE to the participant. Your commitment is time, attendance, and effort. Costs for the in-person 3-day bootcamp are expected to be covered by your district. Additionally, your district should provide you professional leave days for the full training days, 1 day per month August through May. This should not be your personal time as the district is also benefiting from an additionally licensed teacher in special education.

What does my district have to agree to for my participation in ASSET?

Costs for you to attend bootcamp (mileage, food, hotel if required) and provide your position appropriate coverage for each of the full-day sessions August - May.

What if I cannot make the in-person Bootcamp in July?

You will need to wait for the next cohort to begin. The power of the program and the success of our candidates relies upon a strong starting foundation. The bootcamp will give you the opportunity to meet other people like you who you can rely on during the coursework. If you cannot attend all three days in August you won't be eligible for this cohort cycle.

Can a fellow teacher be my mentor?

Your assigned mentor for the purposes of this course needs to be an administrator of special education. A teacher, counselor, or principal in your building does not meet this criteria. It **MUST** be a special education director, assistant director, program supervisor, etc. For the purpose of daily support, anyone who has special education knowledge within your district can be assigned as a designee by your mentor, but you'll still need to meet with your official mentor (director, asst. director, program supervisor, etc.) at least one time per month, if not more.

Can someone other than the candidate complete the application?

No, the candidate must complete the application and affirm they intend to remain an educator in Indiana for two years beyond completion of the program.

What training will be available for mentors?

We hold a basic training at the start of the cohort (usually in August) for mentors so they are clear on the expectations of the program and what they are responsible for in supporting the candidate. The training is about an hour. The program director is also available regularly by Zoom, phone, and email to support both the mentor and the mentee throughout the cohort cycle.

Who should I ask to be my mentor?

Your mentor must be an administrator of special education. You'll need to use someone who has authority either in your district directly (a local director) or if in a cooperative, the cooperative director. If you need help identifying who this person is you can ask an administrator in your district or reach out to the director of the ASSET Program and your director can be identified for you.

Who do I ask for the letter of recommendation?

Your letter of recommendation **MUST** come from your director of special education or cooperative director should you be a part of a larger co-op.

Do I have to teach in Indiana for two years after completion of the program?

Yes. Since Indiana is offsetting the majority of the costs for this program, and providing it to you at no cost, you just affirm you intend to remain an educator in Indiana for two years past completion of ASSET.

Can my mentor or another teacher participate in sessions to help me?

While they cannot participate in the sessions, they can and should be working alongside you in the course requirements. The syllabus is provided at the start of the cohort and should be made available to your mentor or whomever they set as a designee. To ensure we can help as many Indiana teachers as possible, we do not limit the seats for candidates, making our cohorts rather large. To ensure we

have room for everyone, we don't allow others to attend the Zoom sessions or summer bootcamp. All candidates must apply, meet requirements, and be approved to participate.

I'm an art teacher, can I do this program?

Absolutely, any teacher in Indiana holding a standard teaching license of some type (content area doesn't matter) can participate in ASSET.

I'm a third grade teacher, can I keep my class of 25 and do this program?

This is tricky. The short answer is yes, but this proves to be extremely difficult as you have to hold a TOR caseload during the entirety of the program. It's not recommended. If you do feel this is something you would like to consider, please reach out to the program director before applying, to analyze your particular situation.

Can you provide me with an immediate letter of approval toward an alternate license even though the program doesn't start until this summer?

No, you must be actively enrolled in the program to have a letter toward alternate licensing. We will work with you during bootcamp on how to acquire your alternate license. It is strongly advised NOT to get your alternate permit if not needed, until after you attend bootcamp, as the clock begins ticking on the license as soon as you apply for it. Applying early is not necessarily helpful. If you have questions, please reach out to the program director for further explanation. If you would like to ensure a smooth license application when the time comes, make sure your required CPR and suicide prevention training are up to date by late summer.

Is there a waiting list?

There is no waiting list and we don't anticipate having to create one. The beauty of this program is that we can add more electronic seats as the program grows. We will also adjust the bootcamp to ensure everyone has an opportunity to attend should our numbers grow beyond our current physical attendance thresholds. Please note, we will not schedule additional bootcamp opportunities until we are at physical capacity.

Do you accept people into the program after the July bootcamp has passed?

In previous years we have added a secondary bootcamp due to the growth of last-minute numbers. This will not be decided until after the first bootcamp is complete (early August). All are encouraged to attend the first bootcamp if possible to ensure you are ready to go once the monthly Zoom sessions begin.

Once I complete the program am I licensed?

You'll be very close. You'll still need to take the Praxis Exam(s) for the license(s) you'll be working toward. Once you acquire a passing score you can then apply for the add-on of Mild Interventions, Intense Interventions, or both, depending on what you declared at the start of ASSET.

What Praxis Exams do I have to take and when?

You will be eligible to take the Praxis Exams after completion of the program. Most choose to do this the immediate summer after completion. It is strongly encouraged so that you do not lose important information you have learned. The Praxis Exam numbers are: Mild - 5355, Intense - 5547.

What license(s) is(are) available to me through this program?

Mild Interventions K-12, Intense Interventions K-12, or both, depending on what you declare at the start of the program.

What can I expect from Bootcamp?

There will be a great deal of foundational work, learning about the program, reviewing the syllabus, practice with the learning management system, historical attributes of Special Education in both the US and Indiana, and a little fun along the way. We will work hard but also take appropriate breaks throughout the day. Lunch will be on your own each day to spend some time with people you meet. Lunch will be away from the training location unless you pack a lunch.

What is the general format of the monthly sessions?

The sessions generally run from around 8:45 - 3:15 on the first Tuesday of each month (no matter your school schedule). You must be available for the entire period of time (uninterrupted). You will have a 15-minute break in the morning and afternoon as well as a 30-minute lunch break. Each presenter/presentation lasts approximately 75 minutes for a total of four sessions per day. We stick to the schedule rather strictly to respect your personal time, but expect your full attention during the sessions.

What if I'm in a different time zone?

ALL sessions are scheduled according to **Indianapolis local time, which is Eastern DST.** Candidates living in other locations of the state will need to adjust to ensure they're participating for the entirety of all the sessions (both in-person bootcamp and online Zoom sessions).

What makes this program so successful?

This program immerses you in all things special education, for kids who receive services from preschool through age 22. This includes both licensure areas of mild and intense interventions. You will hear from experts in the field each month (3-4 different professionals per session day who are actively in the field of special education across Indiana). The presenters are often Indiana Directors of Special Education or individuals from centers of expertise represented by universities across the state.

Can I earn college credit from ASSET? How about PGP's?

ASSET is not a college credit-bearing program, it is a licensure only program. Alternatively, you will earn PGPs for your time in instruction both during the bootcamp and for the monthly Zoom sessions from August - May.