



Running Start is a special education teacher induction program designed to prepare licensed/unlicensed “Brand Spanking New” special education teachers to teach on the first day of school. Running Start involves an intensive week-long summer training for BSN teachers and their coaches followed by LEA induction activities and training throughout the school year.

Training for BSN teachers focuses on 7 vital teaching behaviors: **Teach Routines, Expectations, Attention, Cycle of Instruction, High Rate of Reinforcement, Error Correction and Response Opportunities (TEACHER)**. Training for coaches focuses on 7 vital coaching behaviors designed to support BSN teachers: **Communication Skills, Observe and Collect Data, Assist with Instruction and Curriculum, Coaching Cycle, Help Make Data Based Decisions, Emotional Support and Modeling (COACH-EM)**.

Evaluation activities allow for continuous improvement throughout the school year. Running Start evaluation measures are grouped into six categories.

**ONE** - *How the participants liked the training:* Participants reaction to the training is assessed through an online survey.

**TWO** - *What participants learned from the training:* Participants content knowledge is assessed utilizing a pre and post test administered the first and last day of the training followed by an online content test 1 week later.

**THREE** - *Participants demonstration of vital behaviors:* Teachers and coaches ability to demonstrate the vital behaviors are assessed in micro-teaching/coaching scenarios. Inter-observer agreement is obtained across 10 percent of observations.

**FOUR** - *Generalization of vital behaviors to the classroom:* BSN teachers ability to demonstrate the vital teaching behaviors in the classroom is assessed through classroom observations scheduled three times a year for running start participants and matched non running start comparison teachers. Observational data are collected on vital teaching behaviors and inter-observer agreement is obtained across 10% of observations.

**FIVE** - *Fidelity checks:* Fidelity of vital coaching behaviors are assessed three times a year. Coaching fidelity measures are obtained through BSN teacher report and self assessment.

**SIX** - *Student outcomes:* Academic engagement data are collected three times a year. We are currently investigating the feasibility of utilizing state assessment data to assess student’s academic growth.