



PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
RESOURCES

**The best teachers are
also the best learners.**

Reinvigorate teaching and learning.

School Specialty offers a variety of Professional Development opportunities to help you implement new programs, engage students, and reinvigorate teaching and learning in the classrooms. Our education experts share current research and best teaching practices on a variety of education topics across content areas.

SCHOOLYARD BLOG

What's trending in education? Peruse hundreds of articles for ideas and resources that you can implement in your classroom today. Visit blog.schoolspecialty.com.

WEBINARS

Watch and engage directly with our education experts during a live webinar at a competitive price. In addition explore our library of on demand webinars to view a topic that interests you. Our On Demand webinars are offered free to our valued customers. Visit <https://school-specialty-pd.teachable.com/>

SITE-BASED WORKSHOP

Our experts will come to you. Partial, full and multi-day workshops. Presentations are available for a fee. See reverse side for some of our popular workshop topics.

School Specialty Professional Development is available with special contracted pricing through your AEPA contract.

WE OFFER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FOR:



To learn more, visit SchoolSpecialty.com/professionaldevelopment

To receive a FREE, no obligation work scope and budget to review, click the "Learn More" button under Contact A Specialist.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional Development is available in multiple formats to fit the individual needs of you and your educators. Live or recorded webinars, in-person half and full-day sessions, we can design something specifically for you.

General topics are available for all categories. These include, but are not limited to:

- Sunlight, Shimmer and Shadow as Art Techniques
- Integrating STEAM
- How to Create a Makerspace in Your School
- Including Sensory Solutions in the Classroom
- Understanding Sensory Processing as Part of Universal Design
- 10 Terrific Tips to Promote Good Fine Motor Skills
- Nutrition Education
- Proven Strategies for Making PE Fun, Engaging & Meaningful
- PE Strategies for a Quality Program
- Modular Robotics: Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions at K-8
- Adapted Art/ Inclusive Art
- Community of Artists

Customized professional development is also available based upon individual instructional needs.



SPECIAL NEEDS

For over 25 years, School Specialty Abilitations has been a leader in providing tools and solutions for children with special needs. We are pleased to now offer Professional Development as part of School Specialty's commitment to transforming more than just classrooms. From topics on Inclusion and Universal Design to Sensory Smart Classrooms and Building Strong Motor Skills in Early Childhood, we have your Professional Development needs covered!

Workshop Title	Duration	Brief Description
Sensory Solutions in the Classroom	3 or 6 hours	Learn how to transform your classroom for success and get practical solutions for staying on task, transition strategies, preventing meltdowns and more! A favorite for Teachers, Therapists and other Related Service Providers.
Inclusive Early Childhood Learning Environments	3 hours	Learn easy options for setting-up an inclusive EC classroom that will benefit special needs as well typically developing children. Review of physical/sensory and social/ emotional learning concepts for children with special needs will be covered. Novice and seasoned teachers will be able to immediately implement strategies to create a more inclusive learning environment.
10 Terrific Tips to Build Strong Fine Motor Skills	3 hours	This fun, interactive training reviews the basic components of the senses...especially how vision, movement, touch and body awareness (through the muscle and joints) form the foundation for all good fine motor skills. Great for Early Childhood Educators!
This Chair is Just Right! Understanding Sensory Processing as Part of Universal Design	3 hours	Applying the basics of good sensory processing, learn how to transform each classroom for success using key design solutions and furniture/equipment selections. Perfect for architects and Facilities Planners.
Designing and Implementing Sensory Spaces to support Social & Emotional Learning Practices	3 hours	Now more than ever, all students, not just those with special needs may be facing issues with chronic anxiety and stress. Understanding the physiological and psychosocial impacts fear/anxiety may have on learning is reviewed from a sensory processing perspective. Then discover how creating and implementing a sensory quiet or wiggle space may help support self-regulation/self management as part of SEL best practice. Designed for Counselors, GenEd Teachers, SPED Teachers and/or Related Service Providers.
Adapted/Inclusive Art	3 hours	Do you have students with special needs in your art class? Need ideas for more inclusive art lesson plans? This interactive art workshop has creative solutions for inclusive projects, fine motor adaptations, hands-on work stations and more! Perfect for Art Educators.

This is a SAMPLE of topics offered through School Specialty Professional Development. Contact School Specialty to find out how we can customize Professional Development to meet your individual, unique needs.



EARLY CHILDHOOD

School Specialty offers professional development services to early childhood educators, administrators, and professionals serving children and families in a variety of settings. We believe that every child deserves a safe and healthy start: socially, emotionally, physically and mentally, and our team collaborates with you to plan and deliver customized training that addresses your specific program needs and desired outcomes.

Workshop Title	Duration	Brief Description
Student-Centered Learning Environments	3 or 6 hours	The early childhood learning environment is often referred to as the “third teacher” in the classroom. This just does not happen automatically, but rather through intentional, purposeful planning. In this session, participants will understand basic research-based guidelines for setting up a developmentally appropriate early childhood classroom environment which will allow children to feel safe, gain independence and engage with people and materials to foster learning.
Transitions that Teach	3 hours	This presentation will discuss the importance of transitions in the early childhood classroom and how to make the most of transition time. We will address key elements for making transitions more successful. Many ideas for teaching early childhood skills via transitions will be provided and participants will leave with some helpful tools to use during transition time in their classroom.
Block Play: Stacked with STEAM	3 hours	One source described blocks as “the tool you can’t teach without.” Join this session on block play to uncover the truth behind that statement. We will discuss the definition of a block, types of blocks, appropriate set-up of the block area, the stages of block play, the STEAM opportunities for children and the teacher’s role in block play. Your participation will lead to a deeper understanding of what STEAM skills children are actually learning through block play and how you can best support them in that learning.
Beyond the Playground: Creating Outdoor Learning Opportunities	3 hours	Over the past few decades, children’s experience in outdoor settings has greatly decreased. Children can greatly benefit from increased time in outdoor learning environments, both developmentally and emotionally. We will begin to develop a nature mindset as we look at the factors that have decreased children’s time outdoors. Additionally, we will explore principles of outdoor learning environments and provide strategies on how educators can increase the opportunities they provide for children outside.
Establishing a Supportive Classroom Climate	3 or 6 hours	Research tells us that children learn best when they are part of a supportive classroom community. Understanding the elements needed to create a positive social & emotional climate will benefit everyone in the classroom and successfully promote children’s learning. This session will help participants gain awareness and develop strategies to create an environment that reflects warm, caring and responsive relationships. This in turn will allow children to develop respect, self-regulation, accountability and conflict resolution skills that can be useful for the rest of their lives.
Brain Development in the Early Years: What Teachers Need to Know and Do	3 or 6 hours	Research tells us that the brain develops the most in the first five years of life. Let’s explore how we can use this knowledge to influence our classroom practices, interactions and lessons. During this time, we will learn how to maximize the use of movement and music, improve memory, utilize process over product, effectively scaffold instruction and define what rigor really means in early childhood education.

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SCIENCE

School Specialty is pleased to offer onsite Science and STEM professional development as part of School Specialty's commitment to transforming more than classrooms. Our workshops train teachers on how best to implement our supplemental curriculum, use innovative Science and STEM learning spaces and environments, integrate classroom materials management and storage solutions, and share current developments in Science education including STEM, STEAM, NGSS, and Makerspace. We can customize and create workshops to meet the needs of your district, school or facility. Our consultants are former or current educators with years of experience teaching Science and STEM at all grade levels and disciplines. Their goal is to support educators in sharing real world experiences where students apply science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in contexts that make connections between school, community, work, and the global enterprise.

Workshop Title	Duration	Brief Description
Energy Quest: Visualizing Cell Pathways using Augmented Reality	1 or 3 hours	Get ENERGIZED about teaching energy pathways with a module featuring cutting-edge Augmented Reality. Through collaborative game board play and manipulating 3D imagery with a swipe of a finger, students will be clamoring to earn 32 ATP and synthesize glucose molecules.
Crime Scene Investigations: Whodunit?	1 or 3 hours	Learn how to support your students in thinking like a detective as they investigate evidence from simulated crime scenes and hone in on a wide range of science concepts and skills.
A STEM Approach to Engineering Design with Wind Turbines	1 or 3 hours	Plan, build, test, and refine your designs to engineer your very own wind turbine. With science and STEM focused lessons you will learn how to use the engineering design process to engage your students in concepts of electromagnetism and voltage and their application to real-world phenomena.
Enchanted Engineers: Using Fairytales to teach STEM Concepts	1 or 3 hours	Once upon a time, fairy tales were for the very young. They were read at bedtime or watched in Disney movies. However, in a true to life "happily ever after" scenario, fairy tale literature is experiencing a revival these days. As educators, we understand the time crunch we face daily to "get it all in." Why not teach skills simultaneously? In this workshop, we will focus on how to integrate fairy tales and STEM challenges. It will contain examples of tiered lessons, STEM challenge activities, step-by-step guides for setting up a classroom, and how to complete a fairy tale STEM challenge.
Coding for Junior Engineers	1 or 3 hours	Coding in the early years is growing rapidly in popularity as more and more parents and educators see that it is an important 21st century skill best taught early and often. In this session, you'll learn some simple, effective ways to start your own coding classes and clubs, while attempting to provide advice on academic approach, curricula, and other resources.

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ARTS & CRAFTS

School Specialty has been enriching teacher's professional lives with Professional Development workshops for over 25 years.

These workshops are developed from the annual Sax Lesson Plans. Our lesson plans are based on the National Visual Arts Standards and are cross categorical. Our Lesson Plans also focus on Adapted Art, STEAM and Social Emotional Learning. We have a collection of over 200 Lesson Plans online. Each year we select our favorites to offer for Professional Development workshops. In addition to our annual offering we can customize a workshop based on the needs of a district. Presenters are former art educators and/or professional artists.

Workshop Title	Duration	Brief Description
Monet's Japanese Bridge	3 hours	Uses Monet's Japanese Bridge paintings to dig deeper into the composition of landscape painting focusing on background, middle and foreground.
Kandinsky Recycled	3 hours	Create a monoprint with different colored planes and geometric shapes using recycled materials.
Community of Artists	3 hours	Create a classroom artist community of houses using a simple 3D construction and various paper techniques.
Cross Contour Geological Ceramic Tiles	3 hours	Create 3D landforms on soft hand-built clay tiles. Optional glaze application on site.
Sunlight, Shimmer and Shadow	3 hours	Explore places/images with personal meaning that demonstrate the properties of highlight, shadow and reflection.
Masters in Plaster	3 hours	Creating a 3D image from a 2D master work using a pizza box and Plast'r Craft.
Fold Over Clay Critters	3 hours	Create imaginative or realistic clay animals using a slab fold over technique.
Layered Coral Reef	3 hours	Multiple sheets of plastic create the layers and depth of a coral reef. Focus includes understanding process of background, middle and foreground.
Pop Into Fun	3 hours	Master the techniques of a simple pop-up structure that can be used to reinforce other disciplines such as literature, history, sciences or as a standalone visual statement.
Adapted Art/ Inclusive Art	3 hours	Do you have students with special needs in your art class? Need ideas for more inclusive art lesson plans? This interactive art workshop has creative solutions for inclusive projects, fine motor adaptations, hands on work stations and more! Perfect for Art Educators.

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PHYSICAL EDUCATION

School Specialty is a leader in professional development for the physical education field offering onsite and online opportunities to meet the needs of PE teachers, classroom teachers, early childhood and after school providers. Organizations can choose trainings to learn more about best practices and products as well as current PE, health and nutrition topics.

Our presenters are current and former teachers many of which are National Teachers of the Year who have years of experience in the field. Have us visit your organization or register on our website for access to webinars and workshops which allows you to track all of your professional development hours.

Workshop Title	Duration	Brief Description
Quality PE: Strategies and Resources to Boost Your Program	3-hour, 6-hour or 12-hour	Learn organizational, management, and instructional techniques to build a quality physical education program.
Building Social Emotional Skills in Physical Education	3-hour or 6-hour	Learn about the principles of SEL and how they apply to physical education as well as take away strategies and activities for integrating the SEL concepts into lessons.
Inclusive PE: Strategies for Including All Students in Physical Education	3-hour, 6-hour or 12-hour	Learn strategies for adapting activities and equipment and how to modify lesson plans for skill-based instruction to better meet the needs of your students.
Ignite Your Health Education Program	3-hour or 6-hour	Learn instructional best practices that align with 21st Century Learning Skills and the National Health Education Standards as well as interactive strategies to actively engage students in the health classroom.
How to be a "Movement Champion"	3-hour or 6-hour	This workshop is designed for the Physical Education specialist to gain insight and ideas that he/she can implement in his/her school practices to increase movement during the school day.
How to be a Highly Effective Physical Education Teacher	3-hour or 6-hour	With increased focus on teacher evaluations, Physical Education teachers look for ways to increase student engagement and support content instruction, while meeting their standards. This workshop will dive into ideas on how to become a "Highly Effective" Physical Education teacher and helpful tools to help you through the evaluation process.
Active Classroom	3-hour or 6-hour	This workshop is designed for classroom teachers with ideas to integrate movement, learn the latest research, and implement fun classroom management techniques to infuse some FUN, movement and kinesthetic learning in the classroom.

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**SPECIAL
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Please note: Professional Development costs can vary by topic and participants. Please contact the Professional Development department at School Specialty, ProfessionalDevelopment@SchoolSpecialty.com, to discuss your specific needs and to receive pricing information.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MENU				
Subject/Topic	Duration	Location	Description	Contract Pricing
Customer Specified Professional Development Day	1 day: 6 hours	Onsite Training	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School Specialty tailored Professional Development solutions up to 30 participants 2. Included: Training Material up to 30 participants Facilities, Audio and Video provided by School 	Please contact ProfessionalDevelopment@SchoolSpecialty.com for your contracted pricing.
Customer Specified Professional Development Half Day	1/2 day: 3 hours	Onsite Training	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School Specialty tailored Professional Development solutions up to 30 participants 2. Included: Training Material up to 30 participants Facilities, Audio and Video provided by School 	
WEB BASED PD AND TRAINING				
Customer Specific Professional Development Webinar	1 hour	Web Based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web Based training • Recorded sessions 	Please contact ProfessionalDevelopment@SchoolSpecialty.com for your contracted pricing.