Come on in, the water’s fine!
Welcome and thank you for attending Region 13’s third annual Inclusion Institute. Providing students with disabilities access to curriculum in our general education classrooms is a complex, exhilarating, and sometimes exhausting task and we want to thank you for all of your work towards that goal.

We are excited to present LeAnn Nickelsen as our keynote speaker this year. LeAnn is a fun and passionate educator who brings great energy and enthusiasm to everything she does. Her keynote speech will be based on the book *Deeper Learning*, and will explore great brain-based strategies for student success.

Our breakout sessions are equally exciting. We have tried to craft options for everybody working in inclusive classrooms. From providing paraprofessional support to developing vocabulary instruction, from designing classroom management strategies to improving your assistive technology toolbox, we think that there are sessions that will apply to every role.

After attending these productive breakout sessions, you will swim away with inspiring and motivating ideas to implement in your classrooms and with your students. So dive in and submerge yourself in fun, engaging, practical solutions for your everyday inclusion challenges.

Sincerely,

**ESC Region 13 Access to General Curriculum Team**

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**Valuable Resources**

- **Region 13 IDEA Twitter**  
twitter.com/ESC13IDEA

- **What’s So Special Blog**  
www.esc13.net/thescoop/special/

- **Region 13 AGC**  
www.esc13.net/agc
In the interest of being green, we have posted handouts for all sessions on-line. If you haven’t downloaded your handouts yet, go to http://conference.esc13.net/index.php/inclusion/handouts to do so now.

For a second straight year, the Inclusion Institute is also being streamed virtually. As an in-person attendee, you will have access to all of the recorded sessions for 6 months after the Institute.

**Which breakout sessions will be recorded and available later?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deeper Learning (Keynote)</td>
<td>LeAnn Nickelsen</td>
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<td>The Power of Questioning: Getting Your Students to Generate Their Own Questions</td>
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<td>Behavior and Inclusion: Secondary</td>
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<td>Mastering Basic Math Facts</td>
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<td>DARE to Engage the Brain</td>
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<td>Fun with Figure 19!</td>
<td>Susan Diaz and Lenicia Gordon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty in Texas &amp; Effective Strategies for Students</td>
<td>Phuong Lien Palafox</td>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>State Capitol</th>
<th>Highland Lakes</th>
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<th>Clarksville</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Check In/Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Keynote Dive into Deeper Learning LeAnn Nickelsen</td>
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<td>11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.</td>
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<td>Breakout Session 1</td>
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<td>12:45 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.</td>
<td>The Power of Questioning: Getting Your Students to Generate Their Own Questions LeAnn Nickelsen, Jennifer Jordan-Kaszuba, Elizabeth Danner, JC Sanders, Ann Jacobson</td>
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<td>Breakout Session 2</td>
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<td>2:30 p.m. – 3:55 p.m.</td>
<td>DARE to Engage the Brain LeAnn Nickelsen, Rachel Hernandez</td>
<td>Integrating Primary Sources in the Social Studies Classroom Brenda Bush and Mauri Best</td>
<td>Working as a Team: Teachers and Para-professionals Working Together Phuong Lien Palafax</td>
<td>Poverty in Texas &amp; Effective Strategies for Students Perry Stokes</td>
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<td>Break</td>
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Diving into Deeper Learning
Room: State Capitol
With the amount of content that teachers have to teach, how can we ensure that students gain a deep and lasting understanding of what they have learned? This practical and hands-on workshop will take your students’ understanding from “So What?” to “Wow!” This workshop provides teachers with a 7-step reflective approach to incorporating powerful learning and content processing techniques into everyday instruction. This engaging and full-of-strategies workshop will give you the confidence to take your students deeper into your current content!

LeAnn Nickelsen
LeAnn M. Nickelsen, educator for over 20 years, is delivering several presentations nationally on brain research topics, differentiation, reading and vocabulary strategies, nutrition affecting cognition, all based on the latest research. She is known for delivering a wealth of information in an active, fun format with very specific, practical classroom examples. Participants walk out with many ideas and a passion for maximizing learning for all students!

In addition to her trainings, LeAnn also models lessons within the classroom. She works with teachers one-on-one and in small groups to help them achieve their educational goals. She is a parent of school-age twins and applies the research to the hardest jobs out there, parenting and teaching.
Session Descriptions

Behavior and Inclusion
Room: Treaty Oak (Secondary) Rosewood (Primary)
So the two of you have spent hours collaborating lessons, modifying tests and assignments, and preparing for that ideal lesson. The students are waiting and eager to participate...except that chosen few. Now what? Participants will be provided methods and strategies on how to deal with these students effectively.

Presenter: Benjamin Garza, ESC Region 13
Ben Garza is an Education Specialist at Region 13. Before coming to the service center, Ben worked as a LSSP and behavior specialist for Pflugerville ISD. He has worked with students in multiple grade levels from primary to secondary. Ben received his education degree from Texas A&M and learned about behavior management through Texas Youth Commission.

Brain Based Strategies for Science
Room: Highland Lakes
How can you increase the engagement level of students and ensure content is not only mastered but remembered? All you need to do is engage the brain! This session will focus on research-based strategies that take advantage of the brain’s pathways and processes in order to increase processing, mastery, and retention of abstract concepts. Come participate in hands-on, minds-on science.

Presenter: Jennifer Jordan-Kaszuba, ESC Region 13
Jennifer Jordan-Kaszuba taught high school science for 11 years to a wide range of students including inclusion, ELL, G/T, and more. Currently an ESC Region 13 science specialist, Jennifer’s goal is to ensure all students are successful through the use of strategies aligned with brain research. Tapping into the chemicals and pathways that occur naturally in the brain can make teaching easier and more productive.

Building Inclusive Campuses: Increasing Student Success by Facilitating Student Connections
Room: Rosewood
Research shows that the connected student experiences greater academic and individual success. How do we facilitate those connections? Learn peer valuing, social skills training, and inclusion strategies. Learn the “whys” and “hows” of social skills facilitation as Liz Kelley invites you on her journey of personal research and implementation in student success and campus inclusion initiatives.

Presenter: Liz Kelley, North East ISD
Liz Kelley is an Inclusion Co-teacher in Career Preparation at NEISD’s James Madison High School in San Antonio, TX. Over her 27 years as an educator, she has served as a teacher or coordinator of special education in four states and overseas. For her Master’s in Educational Administration, Liz researched effective programming in brain-engaged activities. She advocates for the introduction of creative ideas that spark brain engagement and opportunities for students to direct their own learning as a powerful tool for all students - especially those in the inclusion classroom.

DARE to Engage the Brain
Room: State Capitol
If your students aren’t engaged, they will not learn what you prepared for them. In this age of technology, the brain is learning to respond differently to stimuli. Because our society is rapidly changing, we must respond to the changes proactively. This funny and informative presentation gives teachers the research and powerful strategies to help engage their students more. DARE stands for:
D = Dopamine – the neurotransmitter that keeps the brain alert and focused,
A = Amygdala – this part of the brain is the seat of emotion and gets top priority in the brain,
R = Reticular Activating System (RAS) regulates the amount and type of sensorimotor information that comes into the brain,
E = Essentials of Life – The amount of sleep that one gets each night, the type of food that is eaten, the amount and type of exercise that is performed, and even just the time of day all affect our levels of focus and engagement.

Presenter: LeAnn Nickelsen. see page 6

Session to be recorded and available on the virtual site
Repeating session
Fun with Figure 19! Room: Treaty Oak
Are your students struggling on the STAAR questions that are associated with Figure 19? You are not alone! In this session, participants will discover fun and easy ways to address the Figure 19 standards by incorporating them into everyday practices! We will take the figuring out of 19 and find at its heart best practices for reading instruction.

Presenter: Susan Diaz, ESC Region 13
Susan Diaz has been a literacy educator for over 18 years, teaching ELA grades 6-12 in South Texas and East Austin. She currently works as the Secondary ELAR Specialist at Region 13.

Co-Presenter: Lenicia Gordon, ESC Region 13
Lenicia Gordon has been an ELA educator for 13 years, working in Houston ISD, Austin ISD and currently at Region 13. She has been a classroom teacher, librarian, literacy coach, GT coordinator and instructional coach.

Integrating Primary Sources in the Social Studies Classroom Room: Highland Lakes
Manuscripts, artifacts, journal entries, photos, and letters are just a few examples of primary sources that are often overlooked in textbook driven instruction. Primary sources can help activate student learning and encourage critical thinking. Come see how to incorporate usage of primary sources with students of all levels.

Presenter: Rachel Hernandez, ESC Region 13
Rachel Hernandez is the Education Specialist for Social Studies at ESC Region 13. She has been an educator for 14 years and has served in the roles of classroom teacher and district instructional support in the Northside Independent School District, San Antonio, Texas.

Getting to Graduation Room: Canyon of the Eagles
Navigating the complicated tangle of graduation requirements amid the accommodations and modifications allowed by ARD committees can be a daunting task. Educators need current information on this topic to help them guide students toward a successful transition to adulthood. In this session you will learn:
1) Graduation requirements for all students
2) Options for special education
3) Other considerations for graduation and transition planning

Presenter: Elizabeth Danner, ESC Region 13
Elizabeth Danner is the Education Specialist for Transition and Post-School Outcomes for ESC Region 13. She has worked in the classroom supporting students with intellectual and learning disabilities in accessing the curriculum and planning for life after high school. She has worked with adults with disabilities as a social worker, supported living specialist, and supported employment specialist. She also served as the Professional Development Specialist for the Austin ISD special education department.

Is THAT Allowable? Room: Enchanted Rock
Come play with me in the computer lab! Not only will you get the latest information on accommodations that your students can use from desk to test, you will also be able to investigate free tools ESC Region 13 developed to simplify the STAAR accommodations decision making process. You will leave with a clear understanding of the allowable accommodations and how to access them quickly and easily.

Presenter: Cathy Miller, ESC Region 13
Cathy Miller has 25 years of experience in education. As a special educator, she has taught in the resource room, the content mastery center, and a collaborative classroom. As a general educator she taught first and sixth grades. She has been an Assistant Principal, a Principal, and a consultant. Cathy has also been on the parent side of an ARD meeting. Currently she works as an Education Specialist with the Access to General Curriculum team at Education Service Center Region 13. She uses all of these experiences to help others understand the importance of writing child centered IEPs.
Session Descriptions (continued)

**It’s all Greek to Me: Strengthening Students Vocabulary with Latin and Greek Roots**
Room: Lost Pines
Research tells us students benefit from instruction in Latin and Greek roots. Participants will receive a prioritized source list of forty Latin and Greek word elements within a word part inventory. This workshop provides teachers with hands-on activities for teaching vocabulary including suggestions for lesson style, order, materials and pacing of the elements.

*Presenter: Perry Stokes, Rawson-Saunders Institute*
Perry Stokes is currently Dean of Faculty at Rawson-Saunders Institute. He has 14 years of teaching experience in Special Education. Perry is also a Certified Academic Language Therapist and trainer of Dyslexia therapists. Perry has recently published an instructional book on morphology entitled Latin and Greek Roots: Teaching Vocabulary Using Hands-on Activities and Common Objects.

**Late? Lost? Unprepared? Supporting Students with Executive Functioning Challenges**
Room: Lost Pines
The executive functioning skills of goal-setting, planning, organizing, problem solving, and self-monitoring are cornerstones for academic and workplace success. These cognitive processes are emerging for all K-12 learners, but may be particularly challenging for students with autism spectrum disorders, ADHD and learning disabilities. We will explore how to teach executive functions to all students so they optimize what they learn by improving how they learn.

*Presenter: Ann Jacobson, ESC Region 13*
Ann Jacobson is the Program Manager for the Instructional Support team at ESC Region 13. Her experience includes teaching students from PPCD through middle school in a variety of settings and working as a district autism specialist. She is a Master Reading Teacher and has been an instructor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Texas State University.

**Mastering Basic Math Facts**
Room: Clarksville
The National Mathematics Advisory Panel (2008) recommends that the mastery of basic math facts is necessary for algebra readiness. However, many students who struggle in math struggle with mastery of basic facts. How can teachers help? In this session participants will learn about strategy-based instruction and practice for helping students master the basic math facts.

*Presenter: JC Sanders, ESC Region 13*
JC Sanders is an Education Specialist on the Access to General Curriculum team at ESC Region 13. JC has experience working with students with special needs from first grade through eighth grade. Most recently JC worked on development of Tier 2 Mathematics Intervention for struggling students in third and fourth grade. Her past experience as a collaborative teacher, resource teacher, math teacher, department chair, and curriculum developer helps her work with teachers and administrators to address the needs of all students.

**Poverty in Texas & Effective Strategies for Students**
Room: Clarksville
One in every four students in Texas lives in poverty. Come learn about the state of our children in the Lone Star State. More importantly, participants will learn effective teaching strategies for students. This session will be informative, invigorating and IMPORTANT for our children.

*Presenter: Phuong Lien Palafox, ESC Region 13*
Phuong Lien Palafox is a specialist in Special Education at the Education Service Center Region 13. She has worked as a public school speech language pathologist. She has a passion for working with students with autism, culturally and linguistically diverse needs and narrative language needs.
Session Descriptions (continued)

**STAAR/EOC Review Strategies that Work!**  
Room: McKinney Falls  
Break away from boring review packets. Participants will discover ways to use their student data to plan for review lessons that both capture students’ attention and help make conceptual connections between the TEKS and the real world. Real examples will be shared to help inspire your creative side.  

**Presenter:** D’Anna Pynes, ESC Region 13  
D’Anna Pynes has a variety of experience teaching inclusion elementary classes for six years. During that time, she led her colleagues in developing innovative approaches to reviewing for the state tests.  

**Co-Presenter:** Kristen Hillert, ESC Region 13  
Kristen Hillert has taught chemistry, IPC, and senior science electives for over 10 years in Texas and NYC. During those times, she worked with her colleagues to meaningful learning opportunities for all students in her classes.

**STAARtling Technology Accommodations**  
Room: Enchanted Rock  
If you have a computer or iPad in your classroom and work with students who struggle to read and write on grade level, this workshop is for you! This practical and interactive session will focus on exploring the built-in features within Microsoft Word 2010, Windows 7, and the iPad that provide differentiated instruction. Participants will leave with a digital toolkit of resources and knowledge to enable students to use allowable technology tools (text-to-speech, speech-to-text, word prediction, etc.) routinely and independently for learning.  

**Presenter:** Nichole Kertis, ESC Region 13  
Nichole Kertis is an occupational therapist with over 15 years of school-based experience. She is currently the Education Specialist for Related Services and Assistive Technology at ESC XIII. Nichole presents regionally and at statewide conferences on topics related to best practices in assistive technology and in school-based therapy services.

**Team Teaching: A Realistic Approach to Making a fun student-centered classroom with two brains**  
Room: McKinney Falls  
Team Teaching has endless benefits for students of all learning abilities and styles. In this presentation, attendees will learn how to create a fun-filled environment and maximize student production using the power of two brains! Attendees will rotate from station to station and have the opportunity to collaborate and brainstorm with other educators in their field.  

**Presenter:** Myra LeGros  
Myra LeGros is a high school special education teacher working in Science inclusion and resource classrooms. She has been teaching for eight years starting in California then teaching in Czech Republic and Japan before landing here in Texas. She is a passionate and energetic educator with a love of science and learning.  

**Co-Presenter:** Theresa Guidry, Bastrop ISD  
Theresa Guidry is a Biology teacher in Bastrop ISD. She enjoys working with students in the field of science as well as sports, and other enriching activities including taking students to Heifer International in Arkansas. She currently co-teaches with Myra LeGros in their Freshman Biology class.
The FIE, the G’s, and Me
Room: Laguna Gloria
You have a copy of your student’s FIE and he/she has a deficit in “Gc.” Have you ever wondered “what is this “G” and what does it have to do with my student, my class and my instruction?” This session is designed to provide participants with an understanding of the alignment between the Full Individual Evaluation (FIE), the student’s processing strengths and weaknesses and instructional strategies that you could use to assist students in accessing the curriculum in your classroom.

**Presenter: Joy Hunsucker, ESC Region 13**
Joy Hunsucker is an Education Specialist with the ESC Region 13. She provides consultation to school districts in regard to special education issues and topics and is the Special Education Evaluation contact for Region 13. She received her master’s degree from Western Carolina University in North Carolina and attended Texas State University to complete her Educational Diagnostician certification. She has 33 years experience as a preschool teacher, Speech/Language Pathologist and an Educational Diagnostician. Joy has provided presentations regarding the evaluation of students for special education eligibility and other issues related to special education for schools, parent groups, state agencies and state conferences.

The Power of Questioning: Getting Your Students to Generate Their Own Questions
Room: State Capitol
According to scientifically-based research, asking students to generate questions while reading was the strongest of seven strategies that improve reading comprehension. Students should be generating and answering higher-level questions quite often in the classroom – more than the teacher. LeAnn’s presentation will give you over 20 strategies to encourage your students to generate and answer questions in your classroom – to get them THINKING at higher levels.

**Presenter: LeAnn Nickelsen**
see page 6

Working as a Team: Teachers and Paraprofessionals Working Together
Room: Canyon of the Eagles
Working with or as a paraprofessional can be a fabulous experience. Participants will learn from a teacher/para teaching team how to be a successful team. Learn how to work most efficiently and effectively and create a positive, respectful learning environment. This information will be applied to all ages and all classroom environments.

**Presenter: Brenda Bush, ESC Region 13**
Brenda Bush taught in child care before starting a long career in special education in public schools. Her career includes being an educational diagnostician, child find coordinator, and special education teacher (including 10 years in special education preschool). As a diagnostician, she conducted Transdisciplinary Play-Based Assessments (TPBA) and coordinated two TPBA teams. She is now an early childhood education specialist at Education Service Center Region 13, an adjunct instructor at the University of Texas at Austin, and a national presenter on TPBA for the publisher and for the creator of TPBA, Toni Linder.

**Co-Presenter: Mauri Best**
Mauri Best was a parent volunteer in schools before becoming a paraprofessional. She has worked with several teachers on multiple campuses. She has worked with children in most disability categories and enjoys being in a PPCD classroom.

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