

# Virtual Series: Explicit Instruction



This virtual series is provided by the Blumberg Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Special Education at Indiana State University. The Center offers technical assistance to schools and districts by providing resources, professional learning, coaching, and implementation support.

## Series Description:

This four-part series aims to clearly define explicit instruction for educators and provide effective strategies for implementing explicit instruction into daily planning and instruction. K-12 educators will benefit from the practical approaches described in this series and will be able to implement explicit instruction in any content area.

### **Session 1: Explicit Instruction 101: The Blueprint for Strong Teaching**

This session introduces the core principles of explicit instruction and why it consistently improves student learning across grade levels and content areas. Participants will explore the research behind EI, walk through the essential components of an explicit lesson, and analyze short video clips to identify what high-quality implementation looks like. By the end, teachers will leave with a clear framework they can immediately apply to any unit or skill.

### **Session 2: Show, Don't Tell: Crafting Powerful Models and Demonstrations**

In this session, teachers dive deep into the art of modeling—one of the most influential components of explicit instruction. Participants will learn how to break down complex tasks, highlight critical steps, and think aloud in ways that make invisible cognitive work visible to students. Through collaborative practice, they will build and refine their own models, ensuring clarity, precision, and engagement.

### **Session 3: Make Thinking Visible: Questions, Prompts, and Checks for Understanding (CFUs) that Drive Learning**

This session focuses on the interactive heart of explicit instruction: checking for understanding. Teachers will learn high-leverage questioning strategies, effective retrieval practices, and efficient ways to collect real-time data on student progress. Participants will practice crafting prompts that surface misconceptions early and explore routines that ensure all students are accountable for thinking—not just the most vocal ones.

### **Session 4: Release with Confidence: Moving Students Toward Independence**

The final session guides teachers through the gradual release process, emphasizing how to scaffold practice without overwhelming learners. Participants will examine when and how to shift from guided to independent practice, how to provide targeted feedback during the transition, and how to design tasks that lead to durable mastery. Teachers will leave with tools to ensure students can apply skills confidently and correctly—even without teacher support.

## Presenters:

### **Niki Avina, Ed.D.**

Dr. Niki Avina has a passion for empowering educators and students to reach their full potential. With fifteen years of experience as an elementary and middle school teacher as well as more than a decade in higher education and coaching, Niki brings a deep understanding of classroom practice and educational research in the areas of inclusive practices, structured literacy, and explicit instruction. She uses this knowledge and experience to design professional development that helps educators to thrive in the modern classroom.



### **Katie Mosley, Ed.S., NCSP**

Katie Mosley has been an educator for 23 years. Katie began her career teaching middle school English before becoming a school psychologist. She is currently completing her doctorate in Instructional Leadership at Indiana State University. Her professional passions include inclusive practices, evidence-based teaching, executive functioning, and strengthening special education awareness and capacity among school staff.



## Target Audience:

- General Education Teachers
- Special Education Teachers

## Dates:

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Tuesday, May 12 2026

## Times:

All sessions will take place from 4:00 - 5:00 PM ET.

## Location:

All sessions will take place via Zoom.  
A link will be prior to the first session.

## Registration & Payment:

To register, complete the online registration form at <https://bit.ly/blumbergseries>.



Registration is \$75. Payment by check, purchase order, or credit card (Visa and Mastercard) is accepted. To process payment, contact Kiara Shapuras at (812) 237-2830 or [kiara.shapuras@indstate.edu](mailto:kiara.shapuras@indstate.edu).

The deadline to register and process payment is Friday, February 6. Requests for cancellations must be received in writing by Friday, February 6. Credit card payments are non-refundable.

## Questions:

For questions, please contact Katie Mosley at (812) 230-9528 or [katie.mosley@indstate.edu](mailto:katie.mosley@indstate.edu).

## Contact Us

For information about in-district support, complete a Service Request form and a TA Specialist will follow-up to determine how the Center can best meet your needs on a fee-for-service basis. To access the form, visit <https://tinyurl.com/BlumbergServiceRequest> or scan the QR code.

