Working with Schools: Innovative Research Options

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Working with Schools

Background

- Special Education Research - 19 years
- Federally funded research projects
- Public school settings
- Areas of study
  - Instructional strategies and parameters
  - Software development & field-testing
  - Developmentally appropriate practice assessment - development & field-testing
  - Early childhood inclusive settings
    - Social interactions
    - Embedded instruction
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Currently

- National Assistive Technology Research Institute
- Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs
- Cooperative Agreement
- Funded October 1, 2000
- Ending date March 31, 2006
NATRI

Project Goals

- To examine factors related to the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of AT services in schools

- To disseminate the findings of the research in ways that will assist school personnel to develop or improve AT policies and practices for students with disabilities
NATRI

Participants

- 10 states
- 46 school districts
- Target of 10 students per district
- 284 students
- State, district, and school AT administrators
- 254 family interviews
- 274 teacher interviews
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Recruiting

- Friends
- Vested interest
- Roles/Benefits
  - District incentives
  - Student benefits
  - Data collector incentives
- Bottom-up/ Top-down approaches
- Collaborative efforts
- Professional responsibility
- Worth of research
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Obtaining Permission

- State, District, School, Family levels
- Districts have variety of procedures
  - Review boards
  - Application process
  - Verbal permission
- Schools & Families
  - Informal communication
  - Use responsive people
- Research integrity
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