



Amplifying the Voices of Students with Disabilities

Professional Development for Special Educators

The Quaglia Institute is offering online sessions for special educators to support and enhance the development of the voices of students with disabilities. These sessions recognize the value of ensuring that *all* learners are provided equal access and opportunities for their voices to be heard.

Goals of Relationship Between Quaglia Institute and Participants

- Incorporate the voices and aspirations of students with disabilities into all learning environments;
- Enhance learning to be more purposeful for students with disabilities;
- Raise student and staff expectations for success;
- Learn how to differentiate voice instructional strategies; and
- Develop school and district level opportunities for students with disabilities to actively and meaningfully partner with adults.

Session I: Introduction to Student Voice

What is student voice? Why does voice matter? How do we ensure that all voices, especially the voices of students with disabilities, are being heard and valued? Understanding the definition and complexity of voice is essential for implementing strategies that amplify the voices of students with disabilities. Participants in this session will learn the definition of voice, explore the difference between noise and voice, examine how to differentiate instructional strategies to foster voice for all types of learners, and begin to develop concrete action plans that will lay a foundation for the Student Voice & Aspirations learning journey.

Session II: Analyzing Voice Through the Lens of Special Education

Student voice is talked about everywhere, but not through the lens of special education and students with disabilities. As students with disabilities interpret and demonstrate their learning in unique ways, it is critically important to approach voice with a similar focus. Participants in this session will analyze the nuances of voice and the Aspirations Profile through the lens of students with IEPs and examine different ways to support students in the state of Hibernation, Perspiration, Imagination, and Aspiration. Participants will consider how to implement support

systems that allow students to use their voices to discover their aspirations, take responsibility for what needs to be done, self-regulate, and advocate for themselves in their school community.

Session III: Using Differentiation and Scaffolding to Strengthen Access to Voice

Voice is not the same as volume, and voice is not simply expressed verbally. The delivery of academic instruction is differentiated and scaffolded to meet the needs of a student with an IEP, and voice is no exception. Participants in this session will consider how to provide multimodal opportunities to amplify the voices of all students and abilities. Participants will evaluate their current systems and practices and explore how to create equal access and opportunities for all students to positively use their voices inside and outside the classroom.

Session IV: Amplifying the Voices of Students with Disabilities

Are schools truly amplifying the voices of students with disabilities? This is critical to establishing an equitable, inclusive, and welcoming school community. Participants in this session will deepen their understanding of the Aspirations Framework, explore different student voice tools, and examine how to implement school and classroom level changes to ensure that the voices of students with disabilities are heard and amplified. Participants will explore how they can create meaningful opportunities for students with disabilities to partner with adults on classroom and building-wide initiatives.

Quaglia Institute Responsibilities

- Conduct four live customized webinars, each two hours in length, scheduled in consultation with the school/district and delivered throughout one academic year;
- Dedicate a Quaglia Institute staff member focused on special education to lead each session;
- Share instructional strategies within each session to promote growth and sustainability;
- Provide additional readings/resources related to each session to enhance learning; and
- Connect participants with other special educators around the world in order to learn from each other and strengthen voice and aspirations work.

For more information, please contact the Quaglia Institute at info@QuagliaInstitute.org.