

Emily Thatcher
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Professional Preparation

Iowa State University	Ames, Iowa	Special Education Consultant	M.A.Ed., 2008 Focus Area: Literacy for Students with Significant Intellectual Disabilities
University of Northern Iowa	Cedar Falls, Iowa	Special Education Behavioral Disabilities	Endorsement, 1996
University of Northern Iowa	Cedar Falls, Iowa	Special Education Severe & Profound Disabilities	Endorsement, 1990
Iowa State University	Ames, Iowa	Special Education Mild/Moderate Disabilities Art Education	Endorsement, 1989 BA Arts

Experience

Years	Title
2019-Present	Research Project Manager, Accessible Teacher, Learning, and Assessment Systems (ATLAS), University of Kansas ● <i>The Key to General Education Curriculum, (KEY2GEC)</i> National Center on Deaf Blindness Project ○ Design professional development and resources for U.S. State Deafblindness technical assistant providers of students who have deaf blindness and extensive support needs access and demonstrate performance of the general education curriculum ○ Design and support pilot implementation across the U.S. deaf blind projects ● DLM Science Project: Operational Assessment ○ Delivery and Standard Setting ○ Development of science professional development ● <i>Shared Writing Instructional Model (SWIM)</i>, Iowa Model Demonstration Site for K-6 Students with Intellectual Disabilities, U.S. Office of Special Education funded ○ Coordination and management of SWIM Model Demonstration Sites through implementation science ○ Designed and delivered SWIM intervention components technical assistance products ▪ Professional development with instructional resources ▪ Coaching guides ▪ Site implementation guides ○ System and Practice Coaching
2008–2019	Consultant, Students with Significant Intellectual Disabilities, Iowa Department of

Education

- Project Lead and Designer of the Specially Designed Instruction Grant- Literacy, Significant Disabilities focus area, Office of Special Education State Personal Development Grant
- Significant Disabilities State Advisory Team Lead
- Significant Disabilities State Leadership Team Lead
- Significant Disabilities Strategies II: ID Institute of Higher Education Task Team
- Member of Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired Deaf-Blind Committee
- State Assistive Technology Liaison Team Lead in partnership with the University Iowa Center for Assistive Technology Education and Research
- State Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) workgroup
- State Coordinator for National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS)
- State Alternate Assessment Consultant Dynamic Learning Maps and Iowa's Early Literacy Alternate Assessment
- Project Lead for the Literacy, Language & Communication for Students with Significant Developmental Disabilities: Reaching Potentials through Systemic & Sustainable Statewide Professionals Development and the Comprehensive Communication Literacy Project in Partnership with Faculty at University of Northern Iowa and Dr. Karen Erickson, Center for Literacy and Disabilities Studies, UNC Chapel Hill
- Design and development for the Framework for Effective Instruction: Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

2008–1989 Special Education Teacher, Students with Significant Intellectual Disabilities, Mild/Moderate Intellectual Disabilities and Behavioral Disorders (K-12)

- Establishment of new services and programs
- Emphasis in supporting students within full inclusion educational settings and other educational environments
- Strategies to access general education curriculum
- Development of behavior support plans
- Establishment of new services and classroom within public school setting for school aged children who reside in a residential medical care facility
- Emphasis on incorporating appropriate educational goals within integrated settings
- Establishment and maintenance of community-based vocational sites
- Coordination of school, adult service providers, and state transition services
- Supervision of paraprofessionals

Awards

- Iowa Teacher of the Year- Exceptional Parent Magazine, 2002

Selected Presentations

- Thatcher, E. (2014) *One State's Journey, Supporting Iowa's Students with Significant Disabilities Access, Participate, & Demonstrate Performance of College & Career Ready Standards*. U. S. Office of Special Education Programs project meeting.
- Thatcher, E. (2014). *Alternate Assessment Data in Support of Local Decision Making*. U.S. Office of Special Education Programs project meeting.
- Thatcher, E. (2015). *One state's theory of action for developing a statewide system of integrated supports*. Council of Exceptional Children.
- Thatcher, E. (2015). Consortium of Low Incidence Teacher Preparation Programs in Kansas Project.
- Thatcher, E. (2016). *Students with Significant Disabilities: Building the Future, Transforming our Past*. U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education.
- Thatcher, E. (2017). *Transitioning to New Science Standards*. Association for Science Teacher Education.
- Thatcher, E. (2017). *Statewide Collaboration to Prepare and License Teachers to Educate Students with Significant Disabilities*. Council of Exceptional Children.
- Swinburne Romine, R., & Thatcher, E. (2022). *Shared writing instruction for students with intellectual disabilities an evidence-based approach for K-6 writers* [Conference Poster]. Council for Exceptional Children, Orlando, FL, United States.
- Swinburne Romine, R., Thatcher, E., Gilmore, D., & Beeman, L. (2023) *Being a Writer – Practices from the Shared Writing Instructional Model* [Conference Poster]. Council for Exceptional Children, Louisville, KY, United States.
- Thatcher, E. , Lyons, J. (2020). *Driving the CAR (Literacy Interventions for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities: Comment; Ask and Invite Response; Respond More all Day Long*.
- Thatcher, E. & Swinburne, R. R. (2024). *Introduction to the Shared Writing Model*. Pennsylvania Department of Education Conference
- Thatcher, E. & Swinburne, R. R. (2024) *Differentiating Writing Instruction for Students with Disabilities*. Pennsylvania Department of Education Conference
- Thatcher, E., Leah Beeman, & Deb Gilmore (2025)*Shared Writing Instructional Model*, Iowa Department of Education Special Education Conference.
- Thatcher, E. & Ruter, L. (2026) *Curriculum Modifications and the DLM Decision Making Process to Access to the General Education Curriculum*, Tennessee Department of Education Conference, Teaching all Students.
- Thatcher, E. (2026) *Formative Assessment Process within Science Inquiry Routines*. Dynamic Learning Maps Compass 2026 Summer Institute.

Briefs

- SWIM Brief Project #1: *Meaningful Writing Instruction for Students with Intellectual Disabilities*. Russell Swinburne Romine, Meagan Karvonen, & Emily Thatcher
- SWIM Brief Project #2: *Shared Writing Instructional Model*. Russell Swinburne Romine, Emily Thatcher, & Meagan Karvonen
- SWIM Brief Project #3: *From Understanding Symbols to Constructing Text*. Russell Swinburne Romine, Jonathan Schuster, Emily Thatcher
- SWIM Brief Project #4: *Effectiveness of the Shared Writing Instructional Model*. Jennifer Kobrin, Deb Adkins, Emily Thatcher & Russell Swinburne Romine