

Topics in Collaboration and Transition

EDSE 228A

Spring 2026 Section 01 Hybrid 3 Unit(s) 01/22/2026 to 05/11/2026 Modified 01/26/2026

Contact Information

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Instructor:	Emily Cooper
Email:	emily.cooper@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	By Appointment
Class	Tuesdays 7:00 - 9:45
Classroom:	SH 230
Prerequisites:	Department consent

Course Information

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Course Format: Hybrid

This course will adopt a hybrid delivery format, including in-person class meetings and asynchronous work online. Students will need access to a computer or tablet device with internet connectivity, a microphone, and speakers.

Technology Requirements:

If you do not have access to a computer with the necessary features to participate in class, please look into the free equipment loaning program (<https://www.sjsu.edu/it/services/academic-tech/equipment-loaning/index.php>) offered by SJSU.

If campus is open, there are computer labs for student use available in the Academic Success Center (<http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc>) located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Hybrid

In Person	1/27	Asynch	2/3
Dates	2/10	Dates	2/17
	2/24		3/3
	3/10		3/17
	3/24		3/31 - Spring Break
	4/7		4/14
	4/21		4/28
	5/5		
Final	Due in Canvas on 5/12/26 by 11:59PM		

Course Description and Requisites

Strategies for effective communication and collaboration practices with members of the various teams that plan and serve students receiving special education services. Emphasis in planning transitional life experiences across the lifespan.

Prerequisite: Department consent.

Letter Graded

Classroom Protocols

1. Strive to arrive on time and remain for the entire class session.
2. Engage actively in discussions and activities—every voice matters, and we all have something to contribute and learn.
3. Treat classmates with respect and remain open to perspectives that differ from your own.
4. Use of laptops or other devices for note-taking, accessing course materials, and participating in activities is highly encouraged.

Canvas Learning Management System

All course materials (announcements, syllabus, handouts, assignment instructions, lecture videos, etc.) will be available on Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking both Canvas and your SJSU email (the one that ends with "sjsu.edu") to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas see Canvas Student Resources page (http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources).

Permitted Uses of AI

In this course, the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Bard, etc.) is permitted to support your learning. AI can be a valuable tool for generating ideas, clarifying concepts, and summarizing information. However, it is not a substitute for your own knowledge, analysis, or application of course concepts. As future educators, your work must reflect your professional judgment, your understanding of course content, and your responsiveness to the individualized needs of students.

You may use AI to:

- Summarize readings, lectures, or other course materials as a study support.
- Brainstorm ideas or generate initial outlines to get started on assignments.
- Explore multiple perspectives on a topic to deepen your understanding.
- Check clarity of written communication (grammar, flow, readability).

Prohibited Uses of AI

You may not use AI to:

- Generate final submissions for written assignments, lesson plans, IEP goals, or case studies.
- Write analytical reflections or apply course content on your behalf.
- Replace your professional judgment in designing instruction or assessing student needs.
- Fabricate citations, references, or data.

Program Information

LCOE Department of Special Education Mission

We prepare candidates to be transformative leaders in the field, and lifelong learners who respond to racism, ableism, bigotry, and prejudice in their schools and communities. To this end, we center anti-racist and anti-ableist policies and practices in our teaching, research, and service to disrupt systemic racism that has historically prevented full inclusion and equity for students with disabilities including our BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) students, staff, and faculty. We engage culturally sustaining pedagogies and the principles of UDL in our coursework and fieldwork, partnering with our local districts to push for the success of students with disabilities in inclusive settings.

LCOE Department of Special Education Program Learning Outcomes

- **PLO 1** Assess and identify the educational needs and strengths of students with disabilities from diverse socioeconomic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds.
- **PLO 2** Critically evaluate pedagogy, curricula and instructional materials grounded in quality indicators of evidence-based practices for students with disabilities.
- **PLO 3** Plan, design, implement, and monitor linguistically and culturally appropriate instruction that meets the unique needs of students with disabilities.
- **PLO 4** Apply knowledge of the purpose, characteristics, and appropriate use of different types of assessments used for special education eligibility, placement, and service selection.
- **PLO 5** Utilize research-based knowledge and theoretical, conceptual and evidence-based practices related to individuals with disabilities to improve services and instruction in the field.

[Link to Education Specialist TPEs \(pps 13 – 42\). \(https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/educator-prep/standards/education-specialist-standards-pdf.pdf?sfvrsn=729750b1_45\)](https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/educator-prep/standards/education-specialist-standards-pdf.pdf?sfvrsn=729750b1_45)

Course Goals

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Lead and effectively participate in collaborative team meetings. (HLP2)
2. Describe the importance of establishing rapport with families, along with a recognition of common experiences families face when they navigate the school system when they have a child with a disability.
3. Collaborate with individuals or teams (e.g., sharing ideas, active listening, questioning, planning, problem solving, negotiating) to develop and adjust instructional plans based on student data, and the coordination of expectations, responsibilities, and resources to maximize student learning. (HLP 1)
4. Demonstrate an understanding of best practices and policy requirements related to transition planning. (DEC-RC TR2)
5. Demonstrate the ability to plan for and implement person-centered planning in the development of individualized student transition plans that are appropriate to students' age. (HLP 3)

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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This course is intended to assist students to meet the competencies specified in the CCTC Teacher Performance Expectations (TPEs) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/specialed/programs/teacher-performance-expectations/index.html>) related to supporting positive behavior and classroom management for as specified for the following credentials:

Universal: 1.2(A), 2.4(A), 3.4(A), 4.5(P/A), 4.6(A), 5.6(A), 6.3(A), 6.4(P)

Mild/Moderate: 1.5(A), 1.6(P/A), 2.4(A), 2.7(A), 4.6(A), 5.3(A), 6.1(A), 6.2(P/A), 6.5(I/P/A)

Extensive Support Needs: 1.1(A), 1.5(P), 1.10(P/A), 1.11(P/A), 2.4 (I), 2.1(P), 2.10(P), 4.7(A), 6.1(P), 6.2(I/P), 6.3(A)

Early Childhood Special Education: 1.5(P), 1.11(A), 2.2(P), 3.8(A), 4.9(A), 4.13(A), 5.8(A), 6.1(A), 6.2(A), 6.4(A), 6.5(P), 6.8(A), 6.11(P), 6.12(P), 6.13(P), 6.14(I), 6.15(I), 6.16(I), 6.17, 6.18

Additionally, this course addresses the following program learning outcomes (PLOs):

PLO #3: Plan, design, implement, and monitor linguistically and culturally appropriate instruction that meets the unique needs of students with disabilities.

PLO #4: Apply knowledge of the purpose, characteristics, and appropriate use of different types of assessments used for special education eligibility, placement, and service selection.

Course Materials

Required Course Textbook

Murawski, W. W., & Spencer, S. (2011). *Collaborate, Communicate, & Differentiate!* Corwin. ****Note: the eTextbook is available for free through your SJSU Library account.**

Other Readings

Acar, S., & Blasco, P. M. (2018). Guidelines for collaborating with interpreters in early intervention/early childhood special education. *Young Exceptional Children*, 21(3), 170-184.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1096250616674516>

CA Education Code §51100-51133 (1998).

Doren, B., Gau, J. M., & Lindstrom, L. E. (2012). The relationship between parent expectations and postschool outcomes of adolescents with disabilities. *Exceptional Children*, 79, 7-23. <https://doi.org/10.1177/001440291207900101francis>

Francis, G.L., Regester, A., & Reed, A.S. (2018). Barriers and supports to parent involvement and collaboration during the transition to adulthood. *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2165143418813912>

Greene, G. (2017). The emperor has no clothes: Improving the quality and compliance of ITPs. *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*, 3, 146-155.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/2165143417707205>

Lo, L. (2012). Demystifying the IEP process for diverse parents of children with disabilities. *Teaching Exceptional Children*, 44(3), 14-20. <https://doi.org/10.1177/004005991204400302>

Morningstar, M.E., Lombardi, A., Fowler, C., & Test, D.W. (2017). A college and career readiness framework for secondary students with disabilities. *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*, 40, 79-91. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2165143415589926>

Pratt, S. M., Imbody, S. M., Wolf, L. D., & Patterson, A. L. (2017). Co-planning in co-teaching: A practical solution. *Intervention in School and Clinic*, 52(4), 243-249. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1053451216659474>

Rous, B.S., & Hallam, R. A. (2011). Transition services for young children with disabilities: Research and future directions. *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*, 31(4), 232-240.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0271121411428087>

Rowe, D. A., Mazzotti, V. L., Fowler, C. H., Test, D. W., Mitchell, V. J., Clark, K. A., Holzberg, D., Owen, T. L., Rusher, D., Seaman-Tullis, R. L., Gushanas, C. M., Castle, H., Chang, W., Voggt, A., Kwiatek, S., & Dean, C. (2021). Updating the secondary transition research base: Evidence- and research-based practices in functional skills. *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*, 44(1), 28-46.

Snyder, P. A., Hemmeter, M. L., & Fox, L. (2015). Supporting implementation of evidence-based practices through practice-based coaching. *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*, 35(3), 133-143. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0271121415594925>

Test, D.W., Clark, K.A., & Rusher, D.E. (2018). Transition from high school to adulthood. *New Directions for Adult and Continuing Education*, 160, 25-38. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ace.20297>

Turnbull, A. P., & Turnbull, H. R. (2002). From the old to the new paradigm of disability and families: Research to enhance family quality of life outcomes. In J. L. Paul, C. D. Lively, A. Cranston-Gingras, & E. L. Taylor (Eds.), *Rethinking professional issues in special education* (pp. 83-117). Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc. Retrieved from:

https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/bitstream/handle/1808/6056/FQL6_From%20the%20old%20to%20the%20new%20paradigm.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

Waters, C. L., & Friesen, A. (2019). Parent experiences of raising a young child with multiple disabilities: The transition to preschool. *Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities*, 44(1), 20-36. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1540796919826229>

Additional Resources

Council for Exceptional Children website: exceptionalchildren.org

National Technical Assistance Center on Transition website: transitionta.org

Center for Parent Information and Resources website: parentcenterhub.org

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course-related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

ASSIGNMENTS	Points	Due Date
Parent interview and reflection	50	March 03
Collaboration Project	50	April 07
Online Transition modules (2 at 25 pts. each)	50	April 14 & 28

In-Person Assignments	60	Bi-Weekly
Asynchronous Assignments	40	Bi-Weekly
Reflection on a media presentation related to disability	50	May 12
TOTAL	300	

1. Parent Interview and Reflections(50 pts)

Addresses the following TPEs: U1.2, ECSE1.5, ECSE2.2, ECSE 6.5, ECSE6.2, ECSE 6.14, ECSE 6.15,ESN 1.5, ESN 2.4, ESN 6.1, M/M 2.4, M/M6.5

Students will need to interview a parent of a child with a disability. The structure of the interview and questions to ask will be discussed in class. After the interview, you will be asked to reflect on the interview, using the template provided and connecting your reflection with the material covered in our text.

2. Asynchronous Assignments (50 pts total)

Students will respond to questions (short answer or multiple choice) after completing online work assigned on Canvas

3. In-Person Assignments (50 pts total)

Students will work in groups in class to complete presentations, quizzes, discussions, and other tasks.

4. Collaboration Project (50 pts total)

Addresses the following TPEs: U3.4, U4.6, ECSE1.5, ECSE2.2, ECSE3.8, ECSE 4.9, ECSE 6.5, ECSE6.1, ECSE 6.11, ECSE6.12, ESN 1.1, ESN 1.11, ESN 2.4, ESN 4.7, M/M 2.4, M/M 2.7, M/M 4.6

Collaborate with your partner(s) to add elements of parental input, co-teaching, paraeducator assignments, UDL, differentiation, and inclusive design to an existing lesson plan.

For example, add the following details to lesson plan:

How would you connect with parents/families to inform your lesson plan?

How would you modify the lesson for co-teaching?

What would the GE teacher be able to do?

The SE teacher?

How would you incorporate UDL principles into the lesson plan?

How would specially designed instruction be embedded to address the targeted IEP goals?

How would accommodations be enacted for students with IEPs?

How would you incorporate paraeducators into the lesson plan?

5. Online Transition Modules (50 pts total)

Addresses the following TPEs: U4.5, ECSE1.11, ECSE 6.8, ESN 1.10, ESN 2.10, ESN 4.8, M/M 1.6, M/M 5.3

Online Transition Module 1.

Students will complete one of two online modules:

ECSE students will complete a module from Project CONNECT

MM and ESN students will complete a module from IRIS

Detailed instructions will be included on Canvas regarding what you will be expected to turn in upon completion of the module.

Online Transition Module 2.

Students will complete the online modules from TransitionCoalition.org; Sessions 1, 2, and 3 Using the link: <https://transitioncoalition.org/online-modules/> (Submit screenshots of quizzes on Canvas)

6. Reflection on Documentary Film: Including Samuel

Students will watch the documentary film Including Samuel, available on Kanopy database at the MLK library website.

To access the film: sign into OneSearch; Go to Databases; Click on Kanopy and search for Including Samuel.

Write a reflection paper on the film using the following prompts:

1. Summarize the media presentation, focusing on key themes and takeaways related to educating students with disabilities in inclusive environments.
2. Analyze how collaboration and communication between stakeholders (e.g., parents, special education teachers, general education teachers, paraeducators, service providers, administrators) were portrayed.
3. Reflect on the strengths and areas for improvement in how the media represented inclusive education practices.
4. Discuss how the media influenced your understanding of inclusive education and collaboration. 5. Consider how the media presentation might influence your personal or professional practice.

✓ Grading Information

All written assignments must meet standards of academic and professional quality. Unless so stated, all written assignments must be typed, paginated, and free of spelling and grammatical errors. You must cite all referenced work using APA guidelines for citation and referencing.

Every member of a group will receive the same grade (unless a group member is absent – in which case that member will not receive points for the assignment). Be sure to check your group member's contributions before submitting the assignment!

Grade Conversion Table

Grade	Percentage
A plus	98 to 100%
A	92 to 97%
A minus	90 to 91%

B plus	88 to 89 %
B	82 to 87%
B minus	80 to 81%
C plus	78 to 79%
C	72 to 77%
C minus	70 to 71%
D plus	68 to 69%
D	62 to 67%
D minus	60 to 61%
F	<60%

Late Policy

It is part of the ethos of the Department of Special Education to prepare students for the role of special education teacher. This role requires careful attention be paid to due dates (e.g., a late IEP meeting can - and has - lead to legal action). It is, therefore, important that you practice the skills necessary to manage your time as part of your coursework.

At the same time, it is important to practice grace. Please contact me BEFORE the due date to request an extension and include the new due date if you will not be able to submit the assignment on time. Please note submission portals for assignments will close two weeks after the submission deadline.

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing Grading Policy

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) requires that students complete their credential coursework with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Students planning on pursuing a teaching credential in ECSE should, therefore, strive to earn a grade of B or higher in all credential coursework.

Departmental Incomplete Policy

It is the policy of the Department of Special Education that students must have completed 80% of the course work assigned in order to qualify for an incomplete in the class. The final arrangements for making up the incomplete grade (i.e., the due date) will be negotiated between the student and faculty member.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

Course Schedule

EDSE 228A - Spring 2026 Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change – Any changes will be announced in class and on Canvas

CLASS DATE MODE	TOPICS	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
Class 1 Jan 27 In-Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions/syllabus • Review Developing Group Norms • Foundations for transition and collaboration 	Ch 1 & 2	In-Class Assignment 1
Class 2 Feb 03 Asynchronous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in Teams • IEP one Page Summary • Getting input from all Team Members 	Ch 3 Acar & Blasco (2018) Video Lecture on Canvas	Asynchronous Assignment 1

Class 3 Feb 10 In-Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Families • Prepping for parent interview • Parental Safeguards 	CA Education Code §51100-51133 (1998) Doren et al. (2012) Lo (2012) Turnbull & Turnbull (2002)	In-Class Assignment 2
Class 4 Feb 17 Asynchronous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpersonal collaboration 	Ch 4	Asynchronous Assignment 2 Work on Collaboration Project
Class 5 Feb 24 In-Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult interactions • Conflict Resolution • Establishing parity 	Ch 9	In-Class Assignment 3

Class 6 March 3 Asynchronous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with paraprofessionals • Practice-based coaching 	Snyder et al.(2015)	Asynchronous Assignment 3 Parent Interview and reflection due
Class 7 March 10 In-Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to co-teaching • Co-teaching for equity 	Ch 7 & 8 Pratt et al.(2017)	In-Class Assignment 4
Class 8 March 17 Asynchronous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiating Instruction • Modifications and Accommodations 	Ch 5 & 6	Asynchronous Assignment 4

Class 9 March 24 In-Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-class work time for collaboration project assignment 	Classroom Presentation by Groups on work so far	In-Class Assignment 5
March 31	Spring Break - Enjoy some time away from classwork		
Class 10 April 7 In-Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to transition policies and evidence-based practices 	Morningstar et al. (2017) Explore NTACT; ECTA	In-Class Assignment 6 Collaboration Project Due

Class 11 April 14 Asynchronous	Evidence-based practices for transition		Online Transition Module 1 Due Students will complete one of two online modules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECSE students will complete a module from Project CONNECT MM and ESN students will complete a module from IRIS
Class 12 April 21 In-Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration in transition Writing the transition plan 	Greene (2018)	In-class Assignment 7
Class 13 April 28 Asynchronous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration for Transition 		Online Transition Module 2 Due TransitionCoalition.org Modules: Session 1, 2, and 3; https://transitioncoalition.org/online-modules/ (**Submit screen shots of quizzes on Canvas)

Class 14 May 5 In-Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on Transition Modules 		In-Class Assignment 8
Class 15 May 12 Final Paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection on a Media Presentation related to Disability (e.g. Including Samuel) 		Reflection on Media Presentation Due