

**Best Practice Site**  
**Teaching Students with Disabilities to Read and Write**

<b>Region</b>	Southwest
<b>Schools</b>	Jackson County Schools
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<b>Exceptional Children/Literacy Programs, Director</b>	
<b>Instructional Location(s)</b>	Cullowhee Valley (828) 293-5667 Smokey Mountain Elementary (828) 497-5535
<b>Purpose and Goals</b>	Jackson County Public Schools' district focus has long been a balanced literacy program. Most IHE training programs for special educators typically include only one reading course. With increased accountability requirements, it is imperative that special education teachers have broad training in reading instruction. In order to equip the special education teachers to support the regular education teachers in this endeavor, the exceptional children's program has scheduled Foundations training for all special education teachers, grades K-8 during the 2007-2008 school year.
<b>Description Of Students</b>	Six of the seven Jackson County Public Schools will be involved in the training. They are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Blue Ridge School, a Pre-K – 12 school with a total enrollment of 281. Of those, 32 are</li></ol>

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- identified as exceptional children with mild to moderate disabilities that are served in grades K-8. It has a free/reduced population of 52.38%. Blue Ridge has a steadily growing Hispanic population due to the many agricultural opportunities in the area.
2. Cullowhee Valley School, a K-8 school with an enrollment of 701. Of those, 106 are identified as exceptional children with mild to moderate disabilities. Cullowhee Valley also has a growing Hispanic population and a free/reduced population of 49.93%.
  3. Fairview Elementary, a K-8 school with an enrollment of 745. Of those, 138 are identified as exceptional children with mild to moderate disabilities. Fairview is currently in school improvement in the areas of reading with their Students with Disabilities subgroup, and math with their Free/Reduced subgroup.
  4. Scotts Creek Elementary, a K-8 school with an enrollment of 521. Of those, 65 are identified as exceptional children with mild to moderate disabilities.
  5. Smokey Mountain Elementary, a Pre-K – 8 school with an enrollment of 448. Of those, 52 are identified as exceptional children with mild to moderate disabilities. Smokey Mountain is currently on the school improvement watch list.
  6. Jackson County School of Alternatives, is an K-12 alternative school with several exceptional children's programs housed at its site, including a day treatment facility funded with PRC 029 funds for students with significant behavioral problems and a program for students with autistic-like characteristics. In addition, the alternative school has both a

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middle and high school program with several exceptional children served. The total enrollment is 93, with 62 in the exceptional children's program grades K-8.

#### Description of Instructional Model

The research-based instruction model has not yet been determined. At Cullowhee Valley School, a school-wide implementation will take place, with additional training occurring for all regular education teachers grades K-5 over the course of 2008. Because of the inclusion of regular education teachers, all students will receive this instruction in both the regular classroom and resource pull-out classrooms. At Smokey Mountain Elementary, one special education teacher will be using this with her special education students in the pull-out classroom.

#### Instructional Methods

Teachers will use guided reading and direct vocabulary instruction along with the research-based instructional model that has yet to be determined.

#### Instructional Materials

Not yet determined

#### Designated Teachers

Telly Banks – Cullowhee Valley School  
Meryl Band – Blue Ridge School  
Marcia Kotila – Cullowhee Valley School  
Stephanie Mathis – Cullowhee Valley School  
Elizabeth Buchanan – Fairview Elementary  
Kelly Doppke – Fairview Elementary  
Lynne Johnson – Fairview Elementary  
Pamela Martin – Fairview Elementary  
Thomas Downing – Jackson County School of Alternatives  
Alan Wood – Jackson County School of Alternatives  
Laura Spaulding – Jackson County School of Alternatives  
Meritt Petrone – Jackson County School of Alternatives  
Angie Bigmeat Sims – Jackson County School of Alternatives  
Aliesha Taylor – Jackson County School of Alternatives  
Catherine DeWeese – Scotts Creek Elementary  
Karen Newsom – Scotts Creek Elementary  
William Chappell – Smokey Mountain Elementary  
Virginia Hawken – Smokey Mountain Elementary

North Carolina State Improvement Project (NC SIP II)  
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