The Disability Anti-Bullying (DIAL) training was designed for elementary general and special education teachers and consists of four online modules focused on informing teachers how to effectively recognize and respond to bullying with an emphasis on students with disabilities.

**How was DIAL designed?**

The DIAL training modules were iteratively developed by an interdisciplinary team of expert project staff, an expert advisory board, and practicing elementary general and special education teachers. Two focus groups were conducted with 17 elementary general and special education teachers and school counselors to understand:

1. Their knowledge and observations of bullying and victimization among students with and without disabilities; and
2. Their perceptions on qualities of effective professional development.

For each module, the project staff created an outline of each module’s objectives, evidence supporting these objectives, and supplemental images and videos in an interactive, web-based storyboard. From there, the team created a conversational script that was reviewed by the advisory board and practicing teachers. Feedback and insight from the two focus groups were incorporated into the scripts and module resources, as well as the setup and delivery of the training.

**What is the focus of DIAL?**

The DIAL training modules incorporate knowledge of bullying among SWDs and the evidence-based Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework (shown to the right) to focus on interventions rooted in social emotional learning (SEL), and emphasizing the importance of bullying prevention for SWDs.

**What are the potential outcomes of using MTSS for bullying prevention?**

Overall, MTSS is an evidence-based framework for providing systematic supports in multiple levels of a school system. Therefore, MTSS can have positive outcomes at the school-wide, classroom, and individual level.
DIAL Modules Overview

Below are overview descriptions of each module in the DIAL training, as well as specific learning outcomes.

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<th>Module 1</th>
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<td><strong>Understanding Bullying among Students with Disabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>Examining Risk Characteristics</strong></td>
<td><strong>Establishing School-Wide and Classroom Prevention</strong></td>
<td><strong>Individual Prevention</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Definition and Characteristics of Bullying</td>
<td>- Disability Diagnostic Criteria</td>
<td>- MTSS and Bullying Prevention</td>
<td>- Individual Prevention and Supporting Unique Needs</td>
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<td>- Global Risk Factors for Bullying Involvement</td>
<td>- Skill Differences Associated with Disabilities and Bullying Involvement</td>
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<td>- Special Education Services (i.e., Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and 504 plans)</td>
<td>- Protective and Risk Factors for SWDs and Intersectionality</td>
<td>- Universal Prevention</td>
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<td>- Non-Recommended Approaches</td>
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</table>

What does DIAL look like?

Program presentation screenshots showcase what the DIAL training looked like on-screen for learners.

About the DIAL Team

The project staff consists of doctoral level experts in bullying prevention and intervention implementation, SWDs, and social emotional learning; specialists in editing and producing online PD; previous general and special education teachers; and graduate students in School Psychology and Special Education. The advisory board consisted of experts in K-5 special education, teacher preparation, and online learning. To learn more about DIAL, contact Dr. Dorothy Espelage (espelage@unc.edu).

References


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