Navigator: Supporting Teachers' Instructional Decision-Making

ATLAS at the University of Kansas is developing a grant proposal to design and evaluate a new model for supporting educators in their writing instruction for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

Navigator will be an online system that extends the work from Dynamic Learning Maps, Enhanced Learning Maps, and other ATLAS projects. The system will support teachers in implementing data-based instructional cycles in grades 3-8 writing, including views of learning map neighborhoods, two types of assessments, instructional resources, and a dashboard to view results. The system also includes a tool to support teachers in reflecting on the data and making decisions about instructional next steps. The grant also includes self-directed professional development and coaching to support teachers in learning how to use the system and instructional cycles. Teachers will choose at least one DLM-eligible student to focus on for writing instruction during the coaching phase.

This is a 4-year project starting in September 2020. The first three years involve design iterations and small-scale studies including a field test. Year 4 would include a full-scale pilot study with more systematic use of the intervention and evaluation of the program's effectiveness.

Year	Project Focus	Educator Involvement
2020-21	Initial development, stakeholder feedback on usability and feasibility	Exemplar teacher interviews
Advisory group feedback on model and components
2021-22	Iterations on original development, small scale try-out of the system	A limited number of teachers use Navigator, receive PD and coaching for a few instructional cycles, and participate in data collection
2022-23	Iterations and field test	Limited number of teachers use Navigator, receive PD and coaching for the full intervention (~18 weeks), and participate in data collection
2023-24	Pilot study	Teachers randomly assigned to intervention or instruction-as-usual comparison group, complete same intervention as field test, and participate in data collection

Research participants will receive honoraria. KU will be responsible for recruitment and consent as well as technology support, as we hope to minimize the burden on districts for teachers to participate. Teachers will not need any additional equipment to participate.