Mindy Nicholson wanted to advance her knowledge of behavior disorders for her first teaching job. She found her passion at Iowa State. Mindy is now fervent about improving learning for students with significant learning disabilities and behavior disorders. She is adept at assessing children’s special needs, helping them better manage their own behavior, and designing individualized instructional plans to maximize each child’s abilities. Mindy finds the life-changing work of helping children become happier, healthier, and more successful is both demanding and rewarding.

“If you can see yourself as a champion for those who struggle, you are intrigued by children and how they learn, and you have the persistence and creativity to help youths overcome extraordinary challenges, you might also enjoy the rigor of Iowa State University’s Strategist II teacher preparation program.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY FOR THE STRATEGIST II PROGRAM, VISIT www.ci.hs.iastate.edu/strategistII or contact:
Dr. Anne Foegen
Phone: 515 294-8373
Email: sped@iastate.edu

Iowa State University
College of Human Sciences
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**ADVANCE THE LEARNING OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

The Instructional Strategist II program prepares teachers who already hold a general education license. Completion of the program qualifies you to serve students ages 5 to 21 who have significant academic challenges, behavioral disorders, or mental health needs.

**IN DEMAND**

Teachers possessing the Strategist II endorsement are highly sought, as behavioral disorders and learning disabilities have been designated teacher shortage areas by the Iowa Department of Education. Due to this distinction, teachers adding the Strategist II endorsement—commonly called the BD/LD endorsement—to their credentials may even be eligible for college student forgivable loans through both state and federal programs.

**DESIGNED WITH YOU IN MIND**

In response to the state’s demand for professionals who are well-qualified to meet the learning and behavioral needs of children/youth, Iowa State University has made it possible for dedicated educators throughout Iowa to complete the endorsement program in only two years while working full time.

**LEARN AT HOME**

If you like, you can even actively participate in most of your classes from your own home. Courses use WebCT and video streaming technology to maximize real-time interactions among you, your instructors, and your student-colleagues.

**COLLEGIAL LEARNING COMMUNITY**

Your distance experiences will be complemented with some Saturday and summertime on-campus meetings to help you build meaningful, long-lasting relationships with your newfound learning community. By matriculating through the program with a cohort of fellow teachers, you are ensured a lifelong bonus—a ready-made network of colleagues with similar interests and skills who you can tap for inspiration and support throughout your career.

**STELLAR FACULTY**

You will learn through a highly-respected program led by professors who have achieved national recognition for the depth and excellence of their teaching and research.

“The faculty really challenged my thinking, yet allowed me to form my own opinions. I was asked to clarify my statements and ground them in research.” — Eric Smidt

**RELEVANT COURSEWORK**

Coursework includes 26 credit hours exploring:

- Foundations of behavior disorders and learning disabilities
- Assessment of children and youth with disabilities
- Evidence-based practices in behavior disorders
- Evidence-based practices in learning disabilities
- Career education and transition for youth with disabilities
- Classroom management/behavioral support
- Collaboration and consultation
- Systems-level services for students with behavior and learning disabilities
- Supervised field experience—behavioral disorders/learning disabilities

Credits earned in this licensure program can count toward a master of science in education or a master of education degree with a focus on special education.

**RIGOR**

Whether you complete only the endorsement program or you go on to earn a masters, Iowa State’s Strategist II program will change the way you approach your teaching. Our faculty will help you question your assumptions, think more deeply, and develop your educational strategy and leadership skills.