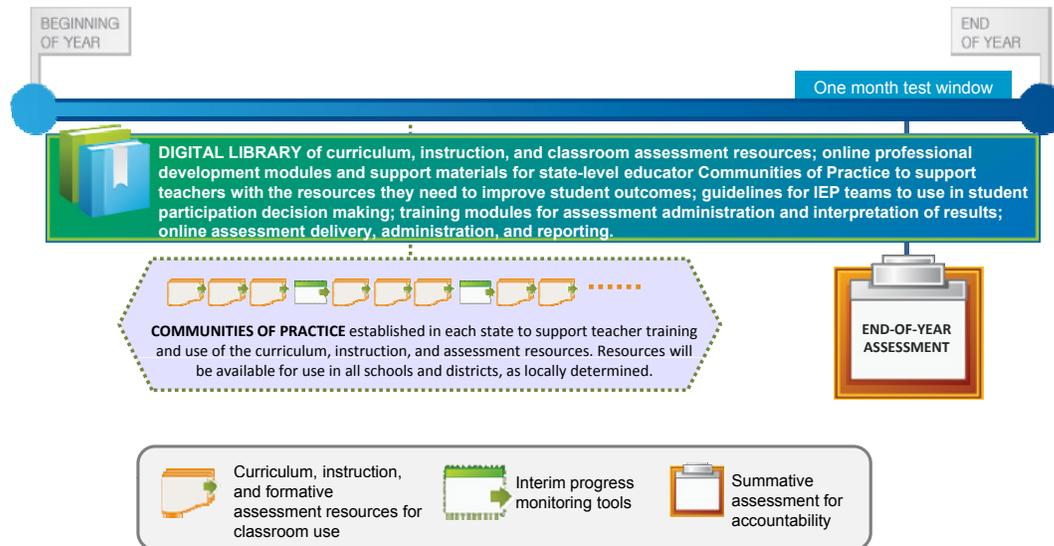# The National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC)

Description of Major NCSC Features

Digital Library: All of the NCSC curriculum, instruction, professional development and classroom assessment materials will be available in a digital library and made available to all states by the end of the grant.

Instructional Supports:

State-Based Communities of Practice (CoPs): These groups are the primary vehicle for review and dissemination of materials and for professional development. NCSC is developing curriculum resource guides, instructional units, formative assessment tools and sample scripted lessons to illustrate how to make specific content accessible to students with cognitive disabilities. NCSC is also developing research-based resources to build educator capacity in the effective use of augmentative communication tools and strategies. A NCSC wiki contains a growing number of UDL instructional units and scripted systemic instruction modules at each of three grade bands, and training materials are available to support their use. Online training modules are also being developed to help teachers use both formative and summative assessment results to improve instruction and programs. CoPs are holding regular webinars and web-based meetings to learn about and discuss these instructional and support resources and to develop plans for training other educators within their states.

Interim Assessment Tools: NCSC is developing interim assessment tools to be used within the flow of instruction (illustrated above) to monitor student progress and improve instruction and instructional programs.

Summative Assessment:

End-of-Year Assessment: These assessments in ELA and mathematics will be taken by students at the end of grades 3–8 and 11. While the content assessed will be standardized, teachers will be trained and certified in the administration in order to ensure that each student can interact with the content. A variety of item types — including multiple choice, short constructed response and performance tasks — will be included. A stage-adaptive delivery process will be used to ensure that each student interacts with content at an appropriate level of challenge while also addressing the need for standardization.

Accountability: Results from the end-of-year assessment will be used for accountability purposes.

Implementation: Census field testing/operational administration in Spring 2015. All system components available in 2014-15.

Cost: To Be Determined.