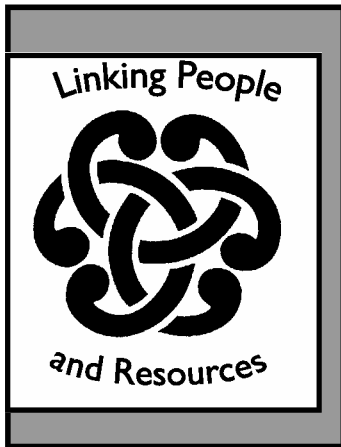


Regional Wrap-Up

Region 5 T/TAC @ JMU

WELCOME BACK!



Happy New Year and Welcome Back to a new school year! The staff of the Virginia Department of Education Training/Technical Assistance Center (VDOE T/TAC), Region 5 at James Madison University is pleased to be available to assist you with educational needs related to students with disabilities for another year. Services available to you include a lending library, quarterly newsletter, training and conferences, on & off-site consultation (including via phone and e-mail), and linking and referral to other sources. *Training and technical assistance priority will be given to personnel in schools needing improvement as designated by VDOE (accredited with warning or not making AYP).* Please refer to the last page of this newsletter for staff contact information. Also, please note that our general office number (540.568.6746) rings on our secretary, Judy Hensley's, phone. For those of you outside the local calling area, you may use the toll-free phone number (1.888.205.4824) for *long distance* (not local) calls. This number also rings on Judy's phone line.

nology (AT), Autism, Alternate Assessment, Enhanced SOL Scope and Sequence, Reading & link to Virginia's Reading First program, Early Childhood Transition & Effective Practices, Instructional Support Team (IST) sites, Instructional Strategies (Kansas Strategies), Parent Involvement, Positive Behavior Supports, and Secondary Transition Outcomes Project. VDOE staff serves as project leads, with each regional T/TAC represented on the project work groups. It is the task of the project groups to determine the most appropriate methods to provide training and technical assistance related to each project focus. Activities might include regional or statewide training or conferences, on-line training, and/or statewide dissemination of materials and information resources.

With Academic Reviews, priority project activities, and working to meet the other training and technical assistance needs of you, our consumers, the 2004-2005 school year looks to be an active one for the T/TAC. We look forward to meeting and working with you in the months ahead as we all strive to improve educational opportunities for students with special needs in our public schools.

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T/TAC Focus

In keeping with the policy implemented last year by the VDOE, T/TAC scope of work will again focus on content area priority projects. Those projects include: Academic Review Participation and Follow-Up Technical Assistance, Assistive Tech-

New Coordinator

Hello Ed!

The VDOE Region 5 T/TAC extends a warm welcome to Ed Kelliher, our newest coordinator who joined us in August. Ed



comes with a variety of educational experiences from several states. Ed has an educational background in engineering from the University of Maine, as well as a bachelor's degree in special education and a master's degree in educational administration. Ed has worked as a teacher and administrator, elementary through high school, in public and private schools in Kentucky, Maine, Vermont, and Virginia. Locally, he has worked in the Augusta County and Staunton City school systems. Ed has Virginia licensure in administration & supervision, early education, middle education, and special education (ED, MR, LD). At T/TAC, Ed will be our lead on the Instructional Strategies (Kansas Strategies) priority project; he will also assist with other training and technical assistance needs as they arise. Ed may be contacted at 540.568.2608 or <kelliher@jmu.edu>. Please join us in warmly welcoming Ed to the T/TAC.

US Dept. of Education Publications Available

The US Department of Education (ED), in meeting requirement of the No Child Left Behind Act, has developed the *Helping Your Child* series of booklets to provide suggestions for parents and caregivers to help their children succeed in school and life. The publications feature practical lessons and activities for preschool and school-aged children in reading, science, & math, emphasize the value of homework, and identify skills and values necessary to achieve and grow (preschool through early adolescence).

The booklets are available to borrow from the Region 5 T/TAC library and may be downloaded at the US Department of Education website: <www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/hyc.html>.

The Department has also updated the link on its home page (www.ed.gov) for Spanish speakers and others interested in Spanish-language resources for their districts and schools. Users can access the site through ED's home page by clicking "recursos en espanol" or connect directly at <www.ed.gov/espanol/bienvenidos/es>.

Autism Center of Virginia Registry

If you live in Virginia and have a child or other family member who has been diagnosed as having autism, consider enrolling him or her in the VCU Autism Center Registry.

The *Registry* is an organization that facilitates autism research by matching investigators with families who are ready to participate in research projects. Historically, registries have been extremely helpful in learning more about the pervasiveness of certain diseases and disorders, their progression, and ways to cure them. Now it is time to do that with autism. Enrollment in the *Registry* is easy, and you and your family choose whether or not you would like to participate in any given research project. Additionally, enrolled families will periodically receive a newsletter that highlights autism-research topics. For more information and enrollment materials, go to the *Registry* website at <www.vcuhealth.org/vtcc/vcu_autism_center.html> or contact via e-mail,

phone, fax, or mail at:

Coordinator, VCU Autism Center *Registry*

Autism Center of Virginia

P.O. Box 980489

Richmond, VA 23298-0489

Telephone: 804.628.2268 (Toll-free:

1.866.628.2268)

Fax: 804.827.3822

E-mail: autismreg@vcu.edu



DID YOU KNOW?

The number of teachers in public elementary and secondary schools increased 29 percent between 1988 and 2001; and is projected to increase 5 percent between 2001 and 2013.

Source: *Projections of Education Statistics to 2013*, US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2003.

Tuition Assistance Available



The Virginia Department of Education has budgeted a portion of Virginia's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B grant funds to provide tuition assistance of up to \$400 per course for a maximum of three courses per year for special educators. These funds are available to the following personnel who have a full-time contract with a school division for the 2004-2005 school year and are not participating in a special education personnel preparation program funded by the Virginia Department of Education: special education teachers who hold a conditional or provisional license teaching school-age students ages 5 to 21, speech-language pathologists who hold a provisional license, and special education paraprofessionals assisting special education programs for school-age students ages 5 to 21.

Eligible teachers and speech-language pathologists are those individuals who are enrolled in graduate-level courses meeting competencies in the endorsement area in which they are providing instruction and seeking licensure. The teacher or speech-language pathologist is responsible for ensuring that any courses taken for licensure in special education satisfy state requirements (Licensure Regulations for School Personnel, effective July 1998). The Division of Teacher Education and Licensure will assist in reviewing the requested coursework.

Eligible paraprofessionals are those individuals who are employed full-time in a special education program and are enrolled in undergraduate or graduate-level coursework related to the special education area in which they are providing instructional assistance.

The funding period for this activity ends June 30, 2005. If the number of applications received exceeds funds available, tuition assistance will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis, according to the postmark stamped on the application envelope.

Completed tuition assistance applications should be submitted to the Department of Education *immediately* after enrollment and prior to completion of the course. No applications will be considered after the last day on which a course is offered.

If you have questions regarding eligibility for the tuition assistance, please contact Dr. Patricia Burgess, specialist for special education human resources development, Division of Teacher Education and Licensure, at <pburgess@mail.vak12ed.edu> or 804.225.2096. The application form should be submitted to: Dr. Patricia D. Burgess, Specialist for Special Education Human Resources Development, Division of Teacher Education and Licensure, Virginia Department of Education, P. O. Box 2120, Richmond, VA 23218-2120 or faxed to 804.786.6759. Please contact Dr. Burgess for information about the application status or reimbursement.



WANTED!



Teacher representatives for Region 5 T/TAC Advisory Committee. The committee meets 2-3 times per year and is comprised of representatives of T/TAC stakeholder groups. Teacher representatives requested for early childhood, elementary, middle, and high school levels. T/TAC will reimburse members for mileage and the school system for substitutes, if necessary. If interested, contact Cheryl or Melinda at T/TAC.