

TCASE Midwinter Conference 2009
Session Title, Presenter Name, and Description

A Leadership Role In Cross Battery Assessments

Presented by: Kay Torchiana, M.Ed.

Cross Battery Assessments, while innovative and exciting, can be frustrating if the evaluation personnel does not have the training, materials, and support to do it properly. District personnel in a leadership role should know the nuances of this assessment so they are prepared with a variety of materials and support options for their evaluators. This workshop will look at these issues from a practical implementation viewpoint so that districts are "ready" when they decide to take the plunge!

A Nitty Gritty How-To Guide to Documenting FAPE

Presented by: Jan Watson & Gigi Norman

Two special educators who are also practicing attorneys offer practical suggestions to help special educators create documentation to serve the district well in a legal dispute, including: connecting the dots from evaluation to goals and objectives; and documenting progress. Focus is on practical answers to your questions.

ABA: Debunking the Myth

Presented by: Kathy McKinney & Carol Reynolds

In many school districts the discussion and use of "ABA" is controversial and often misrepresented; however the principles of behavior analysis can form the foundation of effective, researched based practices in general and special education settings. This presenter will address common misconceptions regarding Applied Behavior Analysis and describe how the scientific analysis of behavior can be applied in any classroom.

Accessing the General Education Curriculum: Inclusion Considerations for Students with Disabilities

Presented by: Tracy Knickerbocker & Mary Lasater

This session will focus on one staffing strategy, Collaborative Teaching, which increases access to the general education curriculum for students with disabilities. Participants will explore what research suggests are best practices for collaborative teaching in inclusive classrooms and will discuss the implications of using a collaborative model to increase standards based instruction for all students.

Adolescents with Learning Disabilities: SLD to ABT (Ain't Been Taught)

Presented by: Joy Barnhart & Peg Marrin

Adolescents who struggle to learn to read are often inappropriately referred to and placed in special education. The RTI paradigm allows unprecedented levels of collaboration between general and special educators to serve these struggling students. Leaders in adolescent literacy will present characteristics of effective interventions to help special educators understand the I in RTI.

Becoming Culturally Proficient: Eliminating Significant Disproportionality and Other Courageous Conversations

Presented by: Janna Lilly & Frances Stetson

Leadership in special education often presents challenging obstacles and personal opportunities for growth. As Texas educators turn increased attention to the concerns of Significant Disproportionality (SD), we are required to learn more about the impact of culture on learning; where we stand on the cultural proficiency continuum; and strategies that promote culturally responsive classroom practices. This session will feature courageous conversations, opportunities for self-assessment, and a quality practices guide for today's educational leaders.

Behavior and RtI

Presented by: Anise Flowers

In addition to academics, behavior is an important component of the RTI process. Universal behavior screening can identify at risk students in a more systematic manner. Also, research supports the positive impact of social skills on academic test scores. An RTI model for behavior and social skills will be discussed.

BIPs and FBAs: Worthless or Worthwhile?

Presented by: Marc Charbonnet

Let's be honest, many student Behavior Intervention Plans do not work. Although that is not new information, you might be surprised to learn that BIPs can actually work and can actually be the driving force behind behavioral progress. Discover the common problems with ineffective BIPs and what changes are needed to ensure both behavioral progress and legal defensibility in this complicated area.

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Congress Amends the ADA and 504: Impact on Special Education

Presented by: Jim Walsh

Changes to the ADA and Section 504 go into effect in January. This presentation will focus on how these changes will affect those students identified as disabled under Section 504. It will also clarify how the broader scope of Section 504 may impact IDEA eligibility and services.

Consensus: Making It Work

Presented by: Linda McDaniel & Laura Otey

ARD Committee members routinely make decisions by consensus without understanding the meaning, characteristics, and structure of effective consensus decision making. Learn how to use a consensus tool to build agreement, satisfaction and commitment to implementation. Move beyond impasse during the meeting and sabotage afterwards. Participants can expect practical, ready-to-apply techniques!

Developing a Specialized Program for Students with High Functioning Autism

Presented by: Jean Hal, Linda Floyd & Linda Buzzell

Participants will explore the rationale and program elements of the Spring Branch ISD AIM program for learners with High Functioning Autism. A multidisciplinary approach to integrated academic support strategies, behavior interventions and social skills training will be highlighted. Individualized strategies are implemented collaboratively with general education, resulting in student success in the LRE.

Differentiating Instruction: From Staff Development to Classroom Coaching

Presented by: Elaine Smith & Mary Thrasher

Afraid to try differentiating your curriculum? Need support for your inclusion teachers? Learn how a district provided campus wide inclusion training which included follow-up coaching with teachers in their classroom.

Documentation and Behavior: Allies or Enemies?

Presented by: Marc Charbonnet

Are you collecting data on all student BIPs? Does your data help ensure you and your district are legally defensible in this area? If your district struggles in this area, you are NOT alone. Come hear how to create data-driven BIPs that promote behavior change as well as generating the required documentation that proves you are meeting your educational burden.

Enhancing Programming for Students with Autism: Two Districts' Successes

Presented by: Janet Butz, Cyndi Short & Roxanna Ramirez

A step-by-step approach will be outlined for conducting a program evaluation in your district resulting in the development of a multi-year systematic plan for: conducting comprehensive team-based evaluations; prioritizing staff development and ongoing training activities; utilizing research-based practices and implementing a parent and family component for students with autism.

Gather 'Round the Campfire: Leading Legally Complaint ARD Committee Meetings

Presented by: Andrea Slater Gulley & Janine Cameron Turner

This session provides practical tips on conducting successful - and legally compliant - ARD meetings. Topics include: pre-ARD meetings; drafting IEPs; scheduling; tips for minute takers; agenda preparation; use of technology; parental input prior to the ARD; handling and avoiding complaints about "predetermination"; and non-consensus issues.

Graduation: How Many Land Mines Are There?

Presented by: Terry Wyatt

Several laws, state policies, and program issues affect a student's graduation. In addition, how they graduate will specifically impact their path to enter the collegiate systems. This session will present a focused view of relevant forces and how they impact the student and the school.

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How to Insulate Yourself from Litigation Involving Students with Autism and Emotional Disturbances

Presented by: Marc Charbonnet

This session will address the most common student issues that lead districts into litigation. Participants will learn what to do to ensure their districts are meeting their non-educational burden. Programming issues, inclusion, and FBA/BIP writing will be addressed as well as the use of research based interventions. In addition, an emphasis on being able to document proof of both academic and non-academic progress will be discussed in detail. See examples of behavioral documentation of an actual case where litigation was avoided

Implementing an ABA Program for Students with Autism

Presented by: Ann Jacobson, Donna Worley & Cami Algaier

The framework of Applied Behavior Analysis and the instructional strategies of Discrete Trial Training and Pivotal Response Training are well-researched strategies frequently used to teach language, play, social and academic concepts to children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). In Round Rock ISD and ESC Region XIII, teachers and speech-language pathologists are implementing the STAR (Strategies for Teaching Based on Autism Research) program, which utilizes these methodologies, with students with ASD. This presentation reviews the research and rationale for using the program with students with ASD and provides technical tips and lessons learned from the projects in Round Rock ISD and ESC Region XIII.

Keeper of the Flame: How to Inspire Others on the Cusp of Change

Presented by: Mike Lipkin

If you're instinctively excited about Thriving On The Cusp, you're a natural Keeper of The Flame. This program will give you the insights and strategies to burn even brighter for the people around you. If you're instinctively threatened by the thought of Thriving On The Cusp, you're holding back. You're not using all of your gifts. Too much of you is being held in reserve. Your flame is still unlit. This program will help you catch fire and ignite others as well.

In the New Normal, it's not good enough just being excellent. Excellence merely gives you the right to play. On the Cusp of Change, you have to be Brilliant. You have to be A Keeper of The Flame: Someone who goes first; someone with a heightened awareness of her impact on others; someone who is her own best coach; someone in total sync with her environment; someone embedded with the authority of both competence and character; someone who inspires others to be their Personal Best; Someone like you. Someone like the person you will become. Or someone like the person you need to rediscover.

In this program, Mike Lipkin leverages the proprietary Environics Social Values Research and his own personal contact with over 100,000 people a year, to help your people understand and execute the Ten Steps to Being a Keeper of The Flame. These are the researched characteristics of those preeminent performers who are not only achieving extraordinary results, but they are inspiring others to do the same.

Mike Lipkin makes the complex simple. He makes understanding the future easy. And he inspires people to do what they have to do to achieve what they dream of achieving.

LD Evaluation: Innovative Practices and Tools

Presented by: Edward Schultz & Tammy Stephens

This session will help schools districts improve SLD identification practices by: a) providing a brief overview of SLD identification methods used by other states, b) sharing innovative practices, c) obtaining a focused referral question and, d) incorporating RTI information in the FIE. Tools and resources will be shared with participants.

Leadership in the OK Corral

Presented by: Stephanie Blanck

Special Education leadership requires the humor of a Rodeo Clown while at the same time the knowledge and professionalism of the Master of Ceremonies. Participants will learn ways to increase their leadership abilities through influence and persuasion.

Lessons Learned Legal Panel

Presented by: David Hodgins, Jose Martin, and Jim Walsh

Come hear a panel of education attorneys offering anecdotes and lessons learned for some of the hottest issues you are facing in your job today.

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Live Above the Line

Presented by: Mike Lipkin

In today's brutal marketplace, service excellence won't cut it. Excellence merely gives you the right to be in the game. To win the service game, you have to achieve preeminence. You have to become the symbol of superior performance, the benchmark by which all others are judged. Every year, Mike Lipkin talks to over 100,000 people in 60 companies in twelve different countries. Through his company, EnviroNics/Lipkin, he also researches the traits, attitudes and actions of preeminent performers. He has discovered ten laws that determine service preeminence, which he will share with you in this session.

Medically Fragile Children: Understanding the School District's Duties

Presented by: Jeffrey Rogers

Advances in medical technology and treatment options have led to an increasing number of medically fragile children seeking a public education. This session will highlight the school district's duties with respect to identification, evaluation, placement and the provision of a free appropriate public education to this special population.

Merging RtI, PBS, and PLC

Presented by: Darrin Murphy, Alan Nickson & Kevin Word

This session will overview Amarillo ISDs model for providing RtI within the framework of Professional Learning Communities. Included in the session will be RtI as it relates to academics and RtI as it relates to behavior. Amarillo ISD uses a Positive Behavior Support Model as the framework for RtI. This model will be explained.

Next Stop: Life in the Community Every Day

Presented by: Nancy Neugebauer, Jennifer Tarr & BJ Cummings

Learn about North East Transition Services (NETS), a transition program for students with varying abilities, ages 18-21. The program is student centered and designed to resemble life after school with increased parent involvement, transportation training, agency partnerships, employment, volunteer work, apartment, college and dayhab setting, and post-secondary education.

Prior Written Notice - What, When, Why, and How?

Presented by: Nona Matthews

As the number of disputes between schools and parents increase, so does the need to provide an effective Prior Written Notice. Join attorney Nona Matthews for this informative review of the requirements to provide Prior Written Notice in addition to practical suggestions for addressing the required components of the Notice.

Promoting Collaboration thru Monitoring Students' Academic Achievement

Presented by: Tracy Knickerbocker & Mary Lasater

This session will highlight partnerships between general education and special education faculty that result in the creation of a shared responsibility and high expectations for all students. By promoting collaborative practices through the joint monitoring of students' academic achievement, the overall benefit to the student, classroom, and school is one that promotes cohesiveness, inclusivity and, ultimately, increased student performance.

Putting Assistive Technology into an Action Plan

Presented by: Jill Beall

An Assistive Technology Action Plan is a legal document, part of a student's IEP, which encompasses aspects for implementing AT. It identifies recommended systems, staff responsibilities, and specific task(s) for which the AT supports are intended. The Action Plan partners with the accommodations page to ensure that intent is followed through in practice.

RtI and Behavior: A Systematic Approach for Addressing Behavior

Presented by: Marcy Morris & Lori Davis

Addressing behavior through Response to Intervention (RTI) can be a difficult and challenging process. Hays CISD implemented a systematic approach which guides teachers and teams through this process. In this presentation we will review our step by step procedures as well as fidelity of implementation.

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SCORES: Continuum of Service

Presented by: Peggy Garen & Hilary Simon

SCORES stands for social communication resources and services, providing an individualized range of support in the area of behavior, communication and socialization. This service is available for students with social communication difficulties. The SCORES collaborative service delivery model is considered a transdisciplinary team approach providing an integrated educational experience. Team members are involved in creating a student profile, individualized IEP, progress monitoring tools, and an intervention plan to provide meaningful educational experiences in the least restrictive environment. The educational team shares joint ownership and responsibility for intervention objectives. Our goal is to teach the skills needed to enable a student to access the general education classroom successfully. We have many campus initiatives in AISD including an IPOD pilot, social skills groups with typical peers, and evidence-based ABA instruction.

Standards-Based IEPs: Working Smarter Not Harder

Presented by: Virginia Copeland, Bob Jewett & Dieu-Anh Nguyen

CLARITY, BREVITY, ACCURACY, and DO-ABILITY are the focus of this session. It addresses the question of how educators can narrow the achievement gap for students with disabilities. Attendees can expect a framework and practical tools that will enable them to produce an IEP that addresses enrolled grade level standards and moves beyond compliance to excellence.

STUDENT-2-STUDENT: Student-Led IEP Leadership Training

Presented by: Vickie Mitchell & Beth Panter

We all listen to our peers and so do students. Increase the number of students who participate in the IEP process by developing a cadre of student trainers. Learn how to conduct SL-IEP Trainer of Trainers for students and change an adult model into a student-centered, student-owned model.

Texas Legislative Session Preview

Presented by: Panel

Regardless of who wins in November, the state legislative landscape will shift in 2009. Once the dust settles and the key players emerge, TCASE will invite a panel of Texas lawmakers and policy experts to discuss the issues that will dominate during the next Texas Legislative Session. Come hear about the bills and amendments that likely would affect you, your district and your students.

Texas Statewide Leadership for Autism Resources and Projects

Presented by: Ann Jacobson

The Texas Statewide Leadership for Autism provides a wealth of information supporting service delivery for children with Autism, including statewide workshop information, free on-line courses in English and Spanish, and school-based resources. This session includes an overview of available resources, access information, demonstrations of on-line training's, and updates on future plans.

The ADA Amendments Act of 2008 & What's New in the K-12 Section 504 World

Presented by: David Richards

In September of 2008, Congress passed the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. The Act adds new major life activities, creates a new rule on considering mitigating measures (such as medication) and seeks to broaden eligibility under the ADA and its sister statute, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This session will examine the potential impact of those changes on K-12 Section 504 and possible response from the U.S. Department of Education, together with a look at new decisions, trends, and other topics of interest.

The Legal Framework for Answers

Presented by: Angie Anastasio, Lee Lentz-Edwards & Hanna Carter

This session will introduce participants to a free web-based program which provides easy to understand answers to questions regarding alternate assessments, elements of ARD decision making process, bilingual/ESL programs, required documentation, and much more. All from one website with the click of a mouse. This is a must have resource!

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The New Standards for Discipline Alternative Education Programs

Presented by: Cynthia Buechler & William Buechler

An experienced school attorney will discuss the new Commissioner's Rules regarding standards for DAEPs and their impact on schools.

The SLPs Role in RTI: Using a Workload Approach

Presented by: Judy Rudebusch & JoAnn Wiechmann

Response to Intervention and Three-Tier Intervention models allow for increased flexibility for quality SLP services. This presentation outlines the backdrop from IDEA 2004 Regulations for SLP-involvement in RtI along with useful strategies for SLPs to use a workload approach and find time for prevention, evaluation, and intervention services.

Using SLP-Assistants in the Public Schools

Presented by: Sherry Sancibrian & Lynn Flahive

In these times of shortages of Licensed SLPs in the schools, the TSHA/TCASE Joint Committee continues to receive requests for information regarding requirements for the appropriate use of SLP-Assistants. This presentation will focus on the roles and responsibilities of an Assistant and supervision requirements.

We're All in This Together

Presented by: Mike Sullivan, Joan Altobelli, Holly Riley, Cody Meredith, Chris Rodriguez, Suzanne Anderson, Nancy Hunter

When school districts and community agencies partner for unique collaborative efforts, doors open and opportunities abound for students with disabilities. Join a panel of representatives from the ARC of Central Texas, DADS, Special Olympics, Waco ISD, and Extend-a-Care for a look at innovative and successful partnerships making a real difference for students.

Who's Feeding/Checking/Changing Johnny? School-Health Services

Presented by: Holly Wardell

Providing school health services has become expensive and litigious for school districts. This presentation will discuss pertinent statutes, case law, and recommendations on what services must be provided by school districts, who must provide them, and what duties can legally be delegated to non-nursing staff.