

PRESENTERS FOR TEACHER ASSISTANT (TA) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT –6/8/09

OVERVIEW: State law requires, “(a) As a condition of continued employment every person employed as a teacher assistant shall participate in ongoing professional development.” State law does not identify a minimum number of teacher assistant professional development hours per year but some districts have local requirements for the minimum number of teacher assistant professional development hours per year. State law requires districts to “maintain records on teacher assistant’s completion of: (1) Training for the work assignment; (2) Continuing education & relevant coursework.”

The following listing has been developed to support districts & other programs in locating presenters for teacher assistant (TA) professional development. This listing is not intended to necessarily be an endorsement of the trainers below nor is it intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible trainers throughout the state. Rather, it is a list of persons who have either done training through RIDE sponsored activities or those recommended by districts & other programs. These persons/organizations are available to do TA professional development through arrangements that districts & other programs may choose to make with them.

Professional development & related resources for TAs are available on the TA website at www.ritap.org/ta. This website includes the following “menu items/webpages”:

- About Us including RI TA Website At-A-Glance – a shortcut to using the website, a report of RI’s Policy & Professional Development Infrastructure for TAs, & Statewide Data on RI TA Qualifications, Use, Policy & Practice
- Legal Requirements including these standards & guidelines, checklists of TA qualifications, & Q&A related to TA legal issues.
- ParaPro Assessment including training & testing resources.
- Training Opportunities including an overview of TA professional development requirements & resources, pre-employment training programs, online registration for some training, information on free & low-cost training, career advancement & online professional development. ***This handout is on the TA website on the Training Opportunities webpage. It is updated periodically (check the date at the top of the handout to make sure your information is current).***
- Resources including various training materials, sample forms & other products to adapt to meet local needs, quarterly TA newsletter (with a way to get on the newsletter master email list) & information on RICERT TA (RIDE’s computer-based system for districts to use in maintaining records on TA qualifications, assignments & ongoing PD & for TAs to use in maintaining information on their qualifications & professional development activities & interests.
- Networking including identification of the TA contact person in each school district & other educational programs/schools.

HOW TO ADD TO THIS PRESENTER LISTING: If you know of a presenter that you could recommend to other districts/programs, please email to Peggy Hayden at phayden@fctvplus.net the following BRIEF information – using the presenter listing below as a model.

Topic:

Trainer:

Reference:

Contact Information:

PRESENTER TOPICS

1. Assisting Students with Diverse Academic Needs
2. Autism, Challenging Behaviors & Social Skills
3. Behavioral Supports
4. Center Use to Support Children: Supporting work in the centers to maximize learning for diverse learners
5. Community-Based Instruction/Job Coach Training
6. Computers Introduction
7. Co-Teaching: General & Special Educators & Teacher Assistants working to improve student achievement

8. Differentiating Instruction in the Classroom to Support Students
9. Effective Use of TAs
10. ESL TAs (TAs working with students who have English as a Second Language/English Language Learners)
11. Graduation Requirements - Assisting students with Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements
12. Inclusive Classroom: Strategies for Teaching Assistants in the Inclusive Classroom
13. Hearing Loss
14. Language Challenges: Working with Children with Language Challenges (second language & English language learners)
15. Legal Requirements: Overview of Section 504, IDEA, and ADA in the school setting
16. Literacy
17. Math
18. Motor Skills - 100 Ideas for Reaching Fine Motor and Gross Motor Goals
19. Non Violent Crisis Intervention
20. Reading
21. Reading & Writing
22. Response To Intervention (RTI) – Teacher Assistant Role
23. RICERT TA
24. Sensory Integration & Motor Foundations for Learning
25. Speech/Language Impairment
26. Technology Use to Support Electronic Portfolios & Student Learning
27. Transition 101 for the High School Teacher Assistant
28. Universal Design to Support Access to the General Curriculum
29. Various Topics: Cultural Competence, Media Literacy (& media influence on youth), Conflict Resolution/Violence Prevention & Substance Abuse Prevention
30. Various Topics: Family, School, & Community Relationships; Observation, Assessment, & Planning; Curriculum, Teaching, & Learning; Professionalism; Development & Learning; Health & Safety; Program Design, Management, & Evaluation
31. Writing

PRESENTER LISTING FOR THESE TOPICS

Topic: Assisting Students with Diverse Academic Needs

Trainer: Bob Wall, Jeanne Ballou, Barbara Beal, &/or Leslie Talamini

Reference: Presenter at RIDE Teacher Assistant Network, October 2007

Contact Information: Bob Wall, 658.5790 ext. 225, RWall@nric-ri.org

Topic: Autism, Challenging Behaviors & Social Skills

Trainer: Sue Constable or Amy Grattan

Reference: Presenter at RIDE Teacher Assistant Network, October 2006

Contact Information: Sue Constable, 222-8984, Susan.Constable@ride.ri.gov or Amy Grattan, 222-8983, Amy.Grattan@ride.ri.gov. For additional information on Autism including professional development resources, go to www.ritap.org/asd.

Topic: Behavioral Supports

Trainer: Bill Eyman

Reference: Presenter at RIDE Teacher Assistant Network, October 2005

Contact Information: 232-3480; imaneyman@aol.com. For additional information on Social, Emotional, & Behavioral Learning, go to www.ritap.org/sebl.

Topic: Behavioral Supports - Training for TAs who work with students whose behaviors interfere with learning &/or relationships as defined in RIDE Guidelines on this topic.

Trainer: Gateway Healthcare, Youth Guidance Division

Reference: Has provided training on this topic via RIDE-sponsored program of 4-sessions (3 hours each).

Contact Information: Belinda Taylor or Janice Charest, RI Youth Guidance Center; 725-0450 x239; jcharest@gatewayhealth.org

Topic: Behavioral Supports: Positive Behavioral Supports & Effective Classroom Management

Trainer: Carolyn Aspinwall

Reference: RIDE approved Teacher Assistant Course.

Contact Information: Carolyn Aspinwall, Center for Special Services, East Bay Educational Collaborative, 245-2045 x 303, aspinwac@ride.ri.net

Topic: Center Use to Support Children: Supporting work in the centers to maximize learning for diverse learners

Trainer: Patricia Z. Starnes, Reading Recovery Teacher Leader, Literacy Collaborative Trainer

Reference: Trainer of Reading Recovery teachers for Southern Rhode Island Collaborative, Presenter at regional & national Reading Recovery Conferences & Institutes

Contact Information: phone: 295-2888 x 105, pstarnes@ride.ri.net

Topic: Community-Based Instruction/Job Coach Training – Training in competencies as defined in RIDE Guidelines on TAs Assisting with Community-Based Instruction

Trainer: Southern RI Collaborative (SORICO)

Reference: Provides training for TAs Assisting with Community-Based Instruction. Topics that include the roles & responsibilities of a job coach; how to match a student to the appropriate job duties; job development; job coaching strategies; workplace accommodations; liability issues; & evaluating student performance. SORICO also has a variety of training modules & other resources on this topic available on loan.

Contact Information: Alice Woods, SORICO, 295-2888 x 109; awoods@ride.ri.net

Topic: Community-Based Instruction/Job Coach Training- Many students need assistance as they prepare for the transition from School to Career. This training is designed to assist staff working with students with transition needs how they can support students with disabilities in the community.

Trainer: Tom Costello, Employment Specialist, NRIC

Reference: Tom has been employed as a job coach and Employment Specialist at NRIC for over six years working with students with specialized transition needs, has been involved in the creation of the NRIC Transition Employment Center, and has presented this training to multiple districts.

Contact: Tom Costello, NRIC 721-0709, TCostello@nric-ri.org

Topic: Community-Based Instruction/Job Coach Training - Preparing Students for Employment

Trainer: Sally Ribeiro, Vocational Assessment Center

Reference: RIDE approved Teacher Assistant Course, workshops & consultation to districts.

Contact Information: Carolyn Aspinwall, Center for Special Services, East Bay Educational Collaborative, 245-2045 x 303, aspinwac@ride.ri.net

Topic: Computers Introduction – Series of workshops designed to aid teacher assistants in the operation of computers, word processing & email.

Trainer: Cindy DiDonato

Reference: Providence College Adjunct Faculty, Retired Scituate High School English Teacher & RI Teachers & Technology Trainer

Contact Information: West Bay Collaborative, call Lisa Kilby (401) 941-8353 X103 or Email: lmccrudden@ride.ri.net

Topic: Co-Teaching: General & Special Educators & Teacher Assistants working to improve student achievement. Overview of effective school wide strategies & classroom strategies. "Roles of the adults in the room".

Trainer: Carolyn Aspinwall/ Lisa Labitt

Reference: East Bay Regional Co: Teaching forum 2006-2007, RIDE approved Teacher Assistant Course.

Contact Information: Carolyn Aspinwall, 245-2045 ext. 303, aspinwac@ride.ri.net

Topic: Differentiating Instruction in the Classroom to Support Students - The theory behind differentiated instruction & why educators use particular strategies; “tools” to encourage & motivate the diverse students we work with

Trainers: Deborah Kolling & Jennifer Jendzejec

Reference: R.I.D.E. Differentiated Instruction Teaching Fellows; West Bay Collaborative: “Supporting All Students”

Contact Information: Phone: 401-941-8353 X105; Email: rid23681@ride.ri.net

Topic: Effective Use of Teacher Assistants (Training teachers or teacher/TA teams in both regular & special education classrooms)

Trainer: Debbie Goessling

Reference: Presenter formerly available to train local staff through a RIDE grant.

Contact Information: Providence College Ph: 865-1963; Home: 781-646-1417, dgoesslg@providence.edu

Topic: Effective Use of Teacher Assistants (Training teachers or teacher/TA teams in both regular & special education classrooms)

Trainer: Ann Marie Dubuque

Reference: Presenter formerly available to train local staff through a RIDE grant. Presenter also formerly an instructor in a RIDE approved TA Training Program.

Contact Information: 523-8204; adubuque@providence.edu

Topic: ESL TAs (TAs working with students who have English as a Second Language/English Language Learners)

Trainer: Soledad Catanzaro

Reference:

- Has developed and implemented district-wide professional development for ELL and General Education teachers around language development, making connections between the GLEs and the WIDA Standards, etc.
- She served as consultant to RIDE on revision of its Training Module for Teacher Assistants Who Work with Students Who Have English As a Second Language. Soledad can provide training on all or parts of this module. Districts can use or adapt this module to address local needs. Module content complies with RIDE ELL regulations & WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards. It trains TAs in competencies specified in RIDE State Guidelines for TAs Working Students who Have English as a Second Language. The module is an outstanding product with easy-to-follow scripts for the trainer with lecture notes & step-by-step activity instructions, handouts & transparency masters that can be converted to PowerPoints. The module is divided into 7 parts, all in PDF for downloading. Adaptations/applications that can be made: (1) Module content on ESL/ELL is appropriate for various educational personnel – not just TAs – &, thus, can be used to train ESL/ELL teams of teachers, TA & others. (2) Some parts can be modified for use with any type of TA, not just TAs working with students who have English as a second language. Access this on the TA website at www.ritap.org/ta on the Resources webpage.

Contact Information: soledad.catanzaro@gmail.com

Topic: Graduation Requirements - Assisting students with Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements

Trainer: Jeannette Roof-Rothwell,

Reference: Director ForwardView, Southern RI Collaborative (SORICO)

Contact Information: Jeannette Roof-Rothwell, SORICO, 295-2888 x 103, jeannette.rothwell@cox.net

Topic: Hearing Loss in Your Classroom. This workshop explains normal hearing vs. hearing loss and identifies the different technology teachers may encounter in the classroom. The participant will learn instructional strategies for working with students with hearing loss and also learn to identify important classroom acoustic variables that affect classroom performance. Use of FM technology in the classroom will also be discussed.

Trainer: Sarah Rosendale, M.E.D. Oral Teacher of the Deaf, RI Auditory-Oral Program

Reference: Sarah has presented the workshop for Professional Development to teachers in various school districts in both RI and MA. This workshop is a PowerPoint Presentation accompanied by handouts, interactive activities and models of amplification and assistive technology.

Contact: Sarah Rosendale, NRIC/RI Auditory Oral Program; (401)270-8725; srosendale@nric-ri.org

Topic: Inclusive Classroom: Strategies for Teaching Assistants in the Inclusive Classroom

Trainer: Jeannette Roof-Rothwell

Reference: Director ForwardView, Southern RI Collaborative (SORICO)

Contact Information: Jeannette Roof-Rothwell, SORICO, 295-2888 x 103, jeannette.rothwell@cox.net

Topic: Language Challenges: Working with Children with Language Challenges (second language & English language learners)

Trainer: Patricia Z. Starnes, Reading Recovery Teacher Leader, Literacy Collaborative Trainer

Reference: Trainer of Reading Recovery teachers for Southern Rhode Island Collaborative, Presenter at regional & national Reading Recovery Conferences & Institutes

Contact Information: phone: 295-2888 x 105, pstarnes@ride.ri.net

Topic: Legal Requirements: Overview of Section 504, IDEA, and ADA in the school setting

Trainer: Jeannette Roof-Rothwell,

Reference: Director ForwardView, Southern RI Collaborative (SORICO)

Contact Information: Jeannette Roof-Rothwell, SORICO, 295-2888 x 103, jeannette.rothwell@cox.net

Topic: Literacy: A Three-Session Course for Teaching Assistants – Providing information on three main topics: the process of learning to read, adolescents & literacy, & focusing on the troubled reader.

Trainer: William Oehlkers, Ph.D.

Reference: Retired RIC Professor; taught Literacy/Reading Skill Acquisition for over 30 years.

Contact Information: West Bay Collaborative, call Lisa Kilby (401) 941-8353 X103 or Email: Imccruden@ride.ri.net

Topic: Literacy Skills with Students with Non-Verbal/Low Verbal Skills using Boardmaker & Writing with Symbols. This demonstration of software programs will focus on supporting visual learners, development of social stories, routines & classroom/individual schedules.

Trainer: Lisa Labitt

Reference: East Bay Educational Collaborative Children & Youth Resource Center Demonstrations & Training

Contact Information: Lisa Labitt, ATAP Children & Youth Resource Center @ East Bay Educational Collaborative, 245-2045 ext. 302, labittl@ride.ri.net

Topic: Math - Differentiated Math Instruction - Gain a clearer understanding of differentiating math instruction with emphasis on open-ended questions, tiered assignments, making real life connections, using literature & designing assessments.

Trainer: Linda Martin

Reference: Retired Special Education Teacher, Special Education Math Coach & RTI Consultant

Contact Information: West Bay Collaborative, call Lisa Kilby (401) 941-8353 X103 or Email: Imccruden@ride.ri.net

Topic: Math Problem Solving/Critical Thinking

Trainer: Anne Goodrow, Professor at RIC, & Jeanne Ballou, Teacher Assistant in Cumberland

Reference: Presenter at RIDE Teacher Assistant Network, January 2006

Contact Information: Anne Goodrow - Home: 270-7649; RIC: 456-8566; AGoodrow@ric.edu; Jeanne Ballou - rid20477@rinet.ri.net

Topic: Motor Skills - 100 Ideas for Reaching Fine Motor and Gross Motor Goals, while keeping the student engaged, interested and motivated. Emphasis will be on addressing goals within an educational framework. All grade levels will be addressed (preschool - HS) as requested upon contact.

Trainer: Marion Hamilton, OTR/L; Registered Occupational Therapist;

Reference: Marion has presented to districts in Massachusetts, NRIC Professional Development for TA's, and to therapists throughout Ma and RI. PowerPoint, hands-on activities and take-home samples.
Contact: Marion Hamilton, NRIC; 401-495-2000 x 4415; MHamilton@nric-ri.org

Topic: **Non Violent Crisis Intervention, Prevention & Intervention Strategies - CPI Certification**
 (8hours)

Trainer: Carolyn Aspinwall/Lisa Labitt

Reference: IANCI certified instructors 06/06/93- 06/06/09

Contact Information: Lisa Labitt, ATAP Children & Youth Resource Center @ East Bay Educational Collaborative, 245-2045 ext. 302, labittl@ride.ri.net

Topic: **Nonviolent Crisis Prevention** - Crisis intervention is a small segment of time in which staff members must intervene with a student to address behavior that may escalate into disruptive or even violent incidents. The goal of staff is to intervene in a way that provides for the care, welfare, safety and security of all who are involved in a crisis situation. This course is appropriate for staff that work with preschool through secondary education students.

Trainer: Timothy Tokarski, Behavior Specialist, NRIC

Reference: Tim has certified staff throughout districts affiliated with the NRIC as well as provided Professional Development within the NRIC. An electronic presentation is used during this course and workbooks will be provided to the participants.

Contact: Timothy Tokarski, NRIC; 401-769-6445; TTokarski@nric-ri.org

Topic: **Reading - Supporting Work in Reading & Reading Recovery:** Training teacher assistants in taking, scoring, & analyzing running records, reading with children that supports strategy use, reassembling cut-up stories

Trainer: Patricia Z. Starnes, Reading Recovery Teacher Leader

Reference: Trainer of Reading Recovery teachers for Southern Rhode Island Collaborative, Presenter at regional & national Reading Recovery Conferences & Institutes

Contact Information: phone: 295-2888 x 105, pstarnes@ride.ri.net

Topic: **Reading - Teacher/ TA Teams Supporting Struggling Readers**

Trainer: Dawn August, Reading Specialist; Kristin Matthes, Special Education Teacher; Cheryl Palumbo, Teacher Assistant (all staff in Barrington)

Reference: Presenter at RIDE Teacher Assistant Network, April 2007

Contact Information: Dawn August, Barrington Reading Specialist, 465-0335, augustd@bpsmail.org

Topic: **Reading & Writing**

Trainer: Sharon Capobianco

Reference: Presenter at RIDE Teacher Assistant Network – 3 sessions at various times on various aspects of reading & writing/literacy.

Contact Information: 383-5289; escapobi@providence.edu.

Topic: **Reading & Writing for Students in Middle & High School - Adolescent Literacy**

Trainer: Dawn August, Barrington Reading Specialist

Reference: Presenter at RIDE Teacher Assistant Network, April 2006

Contact Information: 465-0335, augustd@bpsmail.org

Topic: **Response To Intervention (RTI) – Teacher Assistant Role**

Trainer: Debbie Goessling & Laura Hauerwas

Reference: Presenter at RIDE Teacher Assistant Network, January 2007

Contact: Debbie Goessling, Providence College Ph: 865-1963; Home: 617-491-2604, dgoesslg@providence.edu. For additional information on Response To Intervention (RTI) including professional development resources, go to www.ritap.org/rti.

Topic: **RICERT TA**

Trainer: Carolyn Aspinwall

Reference: RIDE approved Teacher Assistant Course, consultations & training on use of RICERT system to districts.

Contact Information: Carolyn Aspinwall, Center for Special Services, East Bay Educational Collaborative, 245-2045 x 303, aspinwac@ride.ri.net

Topic: **RICERT TA**

Trainer: David Masse

Reference: He works for Kyran Research Associates, Inc. that helped RIDE develop the RICERT TA System. He can provide support to school districts & other educational programs in implementing the RICERT TA System.

Contact Information: 401-849-7734; davidm@kyran.com

Topic: **Sensory Integration & Motor Foundations for Learning**

Trainer: Leslie Paterson, OTR/L; Occupational Therapist

Reference: Provides training through Woonsocket Education Department, and as a consultant for various parent groups, early childhood centers, teachers and teacher assistants regarding the relevance of sensory and motor foundations to learning; explore modifications, accommodations and the concept of a sensory diet at school.

Contact Information: Leslie Paterson; Woonsocket Education Department, 401 767-4765; LPatersonOT@hotmail.com; 508-341-0139 (cell)

Topic: **Speech/Language Impairment-** Training for teacher assistants who work under the supervision of classroom teachers with students with Speech Language Impairments as defined in RIDE Guidelines on this topic.

Trainer: Lisa Fitzpatrick

Reference: Lisa has provided training on this topic through a RIDE-sponsored multi-session (5) training series on: Speech/Language Training for Teacher Assistants: Core Competencies identified in RIDE Standards & Guidelines including Articulation, Voice, Fluency & Multicultural Considerations.

Contact Information: Home: (508) 243- 8657; Work Phone: 456 – 9323; lisa.fitzpatrick@ppsd.org

Topic: **Technology Use to Support Electronic Portfolios & Student Learning** – Training includes: Word I; PowerPoint I; Web 2.0 Introduction; Digital Imagery; Educational Uses of Blogging; & Websites R Education.

Trainer: Cindy DiDonato

Reference: Providence College Adjunct Faculty, Retired Scituate High School English Teacher & RI Teachers & Technology Trainer

Contact Information: West Bay Collaborative, call Lisa Kilby (401) 941-8353 X103 or Email: Imccruden@ride.ri.net

Topic: **Technology Use to Support Electronic Portfolios** - Assisting students with electronic portfolio requirements

Trainer: Frank Mealy

Reference: Program Coordinator ForwardView, Southern RI Collaborative (SORICO)

Contact Information: Jeannette Roof-Rothwell, SORICO, 295-2888 x 103, jeannette.rothwell@cox.net

Topic: **Transition 101 for the High School Teacher Assistant**

Trainer: Carolyn Aspinwall, Center for Special Services

Reference: Regional Transition Center training, ongoing workshop & consultation to districts

Contact Information: Carolyn Aspinwall, Center for Special Services, East Bay Educational Collaborative, 245-2045 x 303, aspinwac@ride.ri.net

Topic: **Transition 101 for the High School Teacher Assistant**

Trainer: Alice Woods

Reference: Regional Transition Center training, ongoing workshop & consultation to districts

Contact Information: Alice Woods, Southern RI Collaborative, 295-2888 Ext. 109, awoods@ride.ri.net

Topic: **Universal Design to Support Access to the General Curriculum.** Tools & methods that support teaching & learning. Technologies & strategies that work within the classroom environment.

Trainer: Lisa Labitt

Reference: Presenter at Transition Conferences: Working through the Maze Preparing Students for High School & College Success, Providence College Transition Forum, Mount Pleasant HS Providence, ATAP presentations

Contact Information: Lisa Labitt, ATAP Children & Youth Resource Center @ East Bay Educational Collaborative, 245-2045 ext. 302, labittl@ride.ri.net

Topic: **Various Topics: Family, School, & Community Relationships; Observation, Assessment, & Planning; Curriculum, Teaching, & Learning; Professionalism; Development & Learning; Health & Safety; Program Design, Management, & Evaluation**

Trainer: Various CHILDSPAN trainers

Reference: CHILDSPAN is Rhode Island's Child Development & Education Training System. We organize & present at numerous statewide conferences.

Contact Information: Jessica Baez, Administrative Assistant. (401) 721-6401, jbaez@childspan.net

Topics: **Various Topics: Cultural Competence, Media Literacy (& media influence on youth), Conflict Resolution/Violence Prevention & Substance Abuse Prevention** (how substance abuse effects the classroom)

Trainer: Pamela Steager, Prevention Specialist

Reference: Coordinated (& led one session) on nonviolence for Providence TAs in February 2007.

Contact Information: Pamela Steager, 351-5471 (H/O), 439-1292 (C), psteager@earthlink.net

Topic: **Writing - Written Language: Technology Support for Students with Learning Disabilities.** What are low-tech/high-tech options, common classroom technology tools & strategies educators can provide.

Trainer: Lisa Labitt

Reference: East Bay Educational Collaborative Children & Youth Resource Center Demonstrations & Training

Contact Information: Lisa Labitt ATAP Children & Youth Resource Center @ East Bay Educational Collaborative 245-2045 ext.302 labittl@ride.ri.net

Topic: **Writing - Writing Strategies to Support the Teacher in the Classroom** – Improved understanding of writing process on the part of Teaching Assistants; improved skills to assist students.

Trainer: Stefani Singer Anderson

Reference: Veteran ELA Teacher who has actively utilized Six Traits methodology for many years, also teaches graduate level courses.

Contact Information: West Bay Collaborative, call Lisa Kilby (401) 941-8353 X103 or Email: lmccrudden@ride.ri.net

PRE-EMPLOYMENT TEACHER ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAMS

Rhode Island has RIDE Approved Teacher Assistant Training Programs that train people in the knowledge & skills required in state standards for persons interested in being employed as a teacher assistant. Some of these pre-employment training programs may be resources for in-service professional development as well. For a Directory of these programs & Profiles of the pre-employment training programs, go to the Teacher Assistant Website at www.ritap.org/ta, click on Training Opportunities & then click on Pre-Employment Training Programs.