

## RI Teacher Assistant (TA) Website At-A-Glance, Updated November 2009

Visit the RI Teacher Assistant (TA) Website at [www.ritap.org/ta](http://www.ritap.org/ta) to access the following resources on the site's various webpages.

### **About Us** – Overview of TAs in RI

- RI TA Website At-A-Glance
- Document & PowerPoint Presentation entitled, RI Department of Education Policy & Professional Development Infrastructure For TAs
- Report of Statewide Survey of TA Practices in RI School Districts & Related Agencies
- Guidance For People Interested in Becoming a Teacher Assistant in RI

### **Legal Requirements**

- Checklists for Reviewing TA Qualifications
- RI Department of Education (RIDE) Program Standards for All TAs & Guidelines for TAs in Specific Assignments & Guidelines for Instructional Teams, Supervision & Performance Evaluation
- Q & A re: State & Federal Requirements for TA Qualifications & Use
- Title I Paraprofessionals: Non-Regulatory Guidance & Linkage to the federal regulations for Title I (No Child Left Behind – NCLB)
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 2004 Regulations & Comments Related to Paraprofessionals/TAs
- Qualifications for Paraprofessionals Other Than Instructional & Non-Instructional TAs

### **ParaPro Assessment**

- ParaPro Training & Testing Resources in RI
- ParaPro Assessment Fact Sheet
- ParaPro Passing Score – 461 is the passing adopted by the RI Board of Regents for Elementary & Secondary Education
- Linkage to the website for Educational Testing Service (ETS), distributor of ParaPro Assessment
- ParaPro Knowledge & Skill Areas, handout listing knowledge & skills tested on ParaPro Assessment.
- ParaPro Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities or Whose Primary Language is Not English

### **Training Opportunities**

- Professional Development (PD) for TAs
- Presenters for TA PD – Individuals & organizations with whom districts/programs may choose to make arrangements for local TA professional development
- PD for TAs Through RI's Educational Collaboratives
- Pre-Employment Training Programs
- National Resource Center for Paraprofessionals (NRCP)
- Free & Low Cost Training Opportunities for TAs in RI
- TA Career Advancement Opportunities in Special Education
- Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) Supports for TAs Pursuing Associate Degrees
- Online PD for TAs – includes links to online PD sites & related resources
- TA Networks – These provide TAs with professional development & the chance to network with TAs from other districts. Networks meet 3 times each school year (Fall, Winter & Spring).

### **Resources**

- Linkage to RI Technical Assistance Project (RITAP) Website – Learn more about RITAP & its projects & resources on issues such as: Autism Spectrum Disorders, Children's Behavioral Health, Medicaid, IEPs, Traumatic Brain Injury, TAs, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Children with Disabilities Study, Assessing Student Response to Instruction, Speech/Language, Section 504, Mediation, Response to Intervention, & much more!
- TA Newsletters - RIDE publishes a quarterly newsletter with up-to-date information on policy, practice & personnel development activities related to TAs & the people with whom they work.
- RICERT TA – RICERT TA is a computer-based system established by RIDE to track the qualifications, assignments and PD of TAs. Resources on the TA website include: (1) RICERT TA Fact Sheet; (2) RICERT TA Manual that includes many resources for using RICERT TA; (3) Quick References for RICERT TA; (4) Worksheet for PD Activity Documentation on RICERT TA; & (5) Other resources to support you in using RICERT TA.

- Research on the Effective Use of TAs – Review a summary of research on TA Use Linked to Student Achievement; What Teachers Need to Know About the Effective Use of TAs; TA Assignment Considerations; TA Professional Development; & National Trends & State Practices re: TAs
- Effective Use of TAs – A Module for Policy & Practice Development – This module is targeted for persons in a leadership capacity related to TAs. It includes: (1) Module document; (2) PowerPoint presentation; (3) Web-based component; & (4) Checklist for Policies & Practices on Effective TA Use that districts can use as a self-assessment & basis for making improvements. Module can be used as an auto-instructional resource by individuals or groups wishing to do research, program self-assessment & program improvement related to TA legal requirements, policy & practice. It can also be used as a training tool.
- Annotated Bibliography of TA Resources Available on Loan – Resources have been compiled by RIDE to assist school districts, teacher preparation programs & others in developing policy & practice & in providing PD for TAs & persons working with them. Most of the resources on this bibliography are available on loan for review or use at 6 locations throughout RI.
- Worksheets Teachers & TAs Can Use to Improve Teamwork – These include: (1) Professional/Program/Student Needs Inventory; (2) Personalized Job Description for Paraeducator; (3) Paraeducator Skills/Confidence Inventory; (4) Paraeducator Growth & Development Plan; (5) Paraeducator Performance Rating; (6) Paraeducator's Work Style; (7) Professional's Work Style; & (8) Work Style Score Sheet
- Substitute Folder for Teachers & TAs – This folder provides resources that school personnel can adapt to their individual situations to facilitate: communication & teamwork among teachers & TAs & continuity of instruction when teachers or TAs are absent. These resources include: Helpful Forms, School Specific Information, Special Education Resources, Professional Information & RIDE & District Information.
- TA Job Descriptions - Access materials to assist in developing effective job descriptions for TAs including information on TA job description requirements & state guidelines, examples of TA job descriptions in RI districts, a job description format & supports for job description development.
- National Skill Standards - The Education & Training Voluntary Partnership (ETVP) has developed Skill Standards for Frontline Workers in Education & Training including Paraprofessionals, Paraeducators, TAs, Education Assistants, & Child Care Workers Working in General Education, Special Education & Early Childhood Care & Education.
- Decision-Making Model for Natural Supports &/or Supplementary Aides or Services – This model & form to use in determining a student's need for natural supports &/or supplementary aides or services that may or may not include TA assignment.
- Student Contract - A student contract is one way to support a student in making personal decisions about his/her education & encourage self-determination.
- Training Module for TAs Who Work with Students Who Have English As a Second Language –Module content complies with RIDE ELL regulations, WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards & TA competencies specified in RIDE State Guidelines for TAs Working Students who Have English as a Second Language. The module has easy-to-follow scripts for the trainer with lecture notes & step-by-step activity instructions, handouts & transparency masters that can be converted to PowerPoints. Adaptations you can make: (1) Module content on ESL/ELL is appropriate for various educational personnel – not just TAs & (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.
- Sharing District-Developed Resources –Access TA-related forms, handbooks, etc. from various RI districts & related programs & instructions for submitting products to share.
- TAs Assisting With Community-Based Instruction

### **Networking**

- TA Contacts in School Districts & Related Agencies
- PD Networks; (1) Autism Spectrum Disorders Network & (2) IEP Resource Network
- Links to TA Related Websites