

Stefanie Babits

Starting and Running an Effective Special Education Parent Advisory Group

Jessica Bacon

Understanding the impact of high-stakes testing, accountability measures, and standards-based reform on inclusive education

This session will provide practical research-based information on ways that educational reforms that have emphasized high-stakes testing, accountability measures, and standards-based reform impact the inclusion of students with disabilities in New Jersey. The presentation will draw from both a broad-based literature review and qualitative data collected by the author over several years that has investigated these issues. Practical information for students and families will be provided for how to advocate for students with disabilities in light of such reforms, and ongoing trends in schools that are resultant on such policies.

Barry Barbarasch, John Lestino, and Phil Tenaglia

Best Practices in Developing and Implementing Inclusion Programs that Support Students' Behavioral and Mental Health

We will present a process model that assist parents, teachers, students and administrators in developing shared purposes, identify real and potential obstacles and move toward cooperation and collaboration in developing, implementing and monitoring effective inclusive practices. The session will describe factors that need to be considered when developing an inclusion program, including factors relating to students, teachers, parents, administrators, and the school. It will highlight the role teachers can play in addressing the mental/behavioral health needs of children, and how they can assist students in making positive choices which promote positive behavior.

Judith Engles Wiener and Brooke Berardo

Moving Pictures- Creating Digital Stories that Translate Classroom Experiences into Interactive, Visual, Tactile, Narratives

Presenters will demonstrate strategies that support young children with limited language abilities in participating in various types of classroom activities. Circle time, story time, special events, group instruction, can be situations that can be challenging and frustrating to many children. Participants will explore ways of using simple technology applications to help children process relevant information and ideas.

Erin Bruno

Developing Emotional Regulation and Problem Solving Skills in Youth: Social Decision Making an Evidence Based Model

Participants will be taught strategies to teach youth concrete skills for emotional regulation and problem solving. Participants will be introduced to interactive software program that can reinforce the skills for emotional regulation to increase positive outcomes.

Maria Cioe-Pena

Sharing the Microphone: Actively engaging Culturally and Linguistically Diverse parents during IEP meetings

Using results from a qualitative study, this session will review considerations that teachers and service providers must keep in mind when collaborating with culturally and linguistically diverse families during IEP meetings. Additionally, this session will also review the way some parents (particularly Latin families) view IEP meetings their roles during the meetings and their understanding of special education. Finally, recommendations will be made as to how to ensure that parents feel invited to participate in the meetings rather than simply invited to attend.

Caitlin Colandrea and Christie Schutz

RTI Boot Camp

Implementing a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) or Response to Intervention Model (RTI) in a school district, whether, large or small can be an intimidating undertaking; however, it is possible with a structured implementation plan that is well defined and goal oriented. In this 2.5 hour "mini-boot camp", attendees will learn how to begin the process of designing, implementing and maintaining success throughout the RTI implementation process.

Lisa Costenbader

Using Google Apps and Extensions to Meet the Needs of Learners with Dyslexia

This presentation will be focus on using the Chrome platform to help students with Dyslexia perform better in Reading and Writing classes. Various Extensions and Apps can be downloaded onto the Chrome browser to assist students with Dyslexia. Many are free and easy to use!

Dr. Lauren Delisio

Applying a Universal Design for Learning Framework in your Classroom - It's Easier than you Think!

The term, "Universal Design for Learning" (UDL) has become more widespread in education in recent years. The UDL Framework is rooted in an idea from the field of architecture, but has been applied to education as a means of addressing the barriers that curricula present to many learners. During this session, the presenter will provide information related to the principles of UDL as well as practical strategies for applying UDL in the classroom.

Shveta Dogra

Oral Language Rehearsal in Literacy (Grades K-5)

In these sessions, you will learn about the power of oral language rehearsal. It is a crucial foundational skill in children's literacy development. We will practice the art of storytelling through various means and find practical applications to bring into your daily classroom routines.

Michele Gardner

Co-Teaching That Works: Lessons Learned in General Education Classrooms

Presenters will discuss the various components that make a co-taught classroom successful and share lessons that have been learned as this model has been used throughout the various age groups. Strategies for ensuring that co-taught classrooms are meaningful for all students will be shared (planning time, resources, equipment). Also discussed will be the focus on station teaching and how this model can be implemented across the content areas.

Michele Gardner and Annie Corley-Hand

Building a Supportive, Inclusive School Culture for All Students at the Early Childhood Level

Presenters will discuss how data teams, an intervention/enrichment period, co-teaching and a gentle therapy dog have transformed this elementary school into one that is truly for all students. Data teams and an intervention/enrichment period have moved staff into using data to very accurately inform instructional practice and focus intervention/enrichment on individual student need. Co-teaching teams have been working collaboratively throughout the school day and have become the basis for which other co-teaching decisions have been made throughout the district.

Michele Gardner and Kevin Morra

High School Inclusion: Accessing the Community for Meaningful Learning

Presenters will discuss how to build an in-direct program for students with more significant disabilities that incorporates both classroom learning and community-based instruction that is driven by a person-centered approach. Topics will include employment/job safety regulations, student strengths/interests, curriculum and employment searches. Presenters will also discuss the role of the job coach and typical supervision and support of students in the community setting.

Dr. Diane Casale Giannola

Dyslexia: How do I know? What do I do?

In this presentation New Jersey legislation related to dyslexia will be shared. New educational responsibilities related to definition of dyslexia, screening, interventions, accommodations and technology will be discussed. Application for elementary and secondary educators will be modeled.

Sue Goldman

Administrators: Be aware - the Speech-Language Pathologist's Underlying Role and Expertise in Language/ Literacy Efforts!

This session will illuminate the often hidden knowledge and talents of speech-language specialists (SLSs) and their role in literacy of which administration are often unaware. Because SLSs have expertise in phonology, morphology, semantics and syntax, they are prime consultants in the area of literacy, especially since research has shown reading disorders to be based on auditory perceptual deficits that require language-based learning strategies. Learn how

SLSs can be players in RTI and MTSS/NJTSS for at risk students suspected of having language-based learning impairments by facilitating comprehension of narrative and expository text as well expressing themselves in writing.

Virginia Gryta

Building, Maintaining and Mending Co-Teaching Relationships

Many special educators today are hired to work in co-taught classrooms. The dynamic of this partnership can make or break a classroom culture and help or hinder the success and development of all learners present. In this workshop teachers and administrators research and tools will be discussed and we will explore how to avoid commonly faced hurdles as well as how to reset and begin again when a co-teaching pair is not working.

Bob Haugh

My View of Inclusion Education: A Personal Perspective

A group of young adults that have experienced services in the special education system will share what they have learned through the process. If our job as educators is to prepare the next generation of contributing adults for the future, we must be willing to learn firsthand what's working from our students.

Kathleen Kowana and Donna Middlebrooks

Creating an Interactive Learning Environment Utilizing Universal Design for Learning & Cooperative Learning

This workshop will provide participants with an overview of Universal Design for Learning and Cooperative Learning: with the focus being offering the students: a variety of choices in representation, action and expression and engagement, thinking skill information exchanges, communication structures, social skills and brain energizers utilizing content. This workshop is interactive and designed to meet the needs of all the students.

Alyson Nechamkin

Embracing Inclusive Education: A School District's Journey

Students with significant disabilities can be academically successful in general education classes. The staff and students in Milltown School District are proving that to be true. Listen to the process of how a pre-k to 8 district transformed from special education being a location to special education being specialized instruction, with appropriate modifications, accommodations, and supplementary aids and services, delivered by co-teachers. Hear about the journey of change toward inclusion this district has taken. It started as increasing inclusion opportunities for specific students with complex disabilities and has led to 86.4% of students with disabilities being included through the full school day in general education classes.

Louis Olander

Promoting understanding across and beyond named languages: Incorporating a Translanguaging framework into UDL

After a brief introduction to UDL and translanguaging, participants will be offered an opportunity to explore and discuss ways in which UDL and translanguaging can work in concert with each other in order to include students' diverse linguistic practices. We will discuss the barriers that are in the way of teachers' inclusion of students' home language practices and workshop potential solutions as a collaborative community.

Chinwe Osondu

Reaching All Learners with Engaging Mathematics Strategies

This workshop supports teacher's efforts to reach all learners with strategies for engagement and redesigning the classroom environment. Participants will enjoy hands on activities that boost understanding and reduce barriers to learning. They will also leave with numerous ideas and resources that provide math access to all students irrespective of ability or disability.

Dana Purcel and Milla Yakubov

Transdisciplinary Collaboration That Supports Growth and Development in an Inclusive Preschool Classroom

General and special education teachers, teaming together to present how they collaborate in an inclusive preschool classroom to provide a successful learning environment for all children. This trans-disciplinary team approach will be highlighted using video demonstration and concrete examples that can be utilized in any preschool inclusion classroom.

Jason Resnick

How to complete classroom activities using accessible applications on an iPad

This workshop will provide participants with an understanding of different accessibility applications that can be used in a classroom. Applications that can be used in different subjects will be covered.

Michael Steinbruck

The Power of PCAST: Implementing Person Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition (PCAST)

This workshop provides an overview of person centered thinking and planning and related approaches that have been developed and used by New Jersey schools involved in the Person Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition (PCAST) project. These approaches empower students and families to effectively and meaningfully participate in person centered IEPs. They equip educators with innovative strategies, including holistic collaborative planning as well as individual and classroom approaches.