

Learning for All Community of Practice

Rethinking the Role of Educational Assistants



Tuesday, February 10, 2015

4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Before the February 10th webinar please take a few minutes to:

- **Review** webinar objectives
- **Jot preliminary notes** in this webinar guide (and have the guide handy to record ideas during the webinar)
- **Reflect** on one or more examples of how educational assistants are supporting students with significant disabilities in your district. Is how they are doing their work supporting an inclusive approach and enhancing student success and autonomy?
- **Check out** the research articles and links provided.
- **Review** the attached draft for the Building Local Capacity template and jot down any questions you have or revisions or additions we could add.
- **Talk with your team** members about:
 - what activity you might do
 - what the focus might be
 - what kind of format you are considering
 - how you might spend a learning grant.

Objectives of webinar:

1. Explore Alberta Education's new video *Rethinking the Role of Educational Assistants* and how it can be used to support an inclusive approach
2. Discuss key issues related to decision-making about how schools use education assistants

3. Identify ten sample strategies for educational assistants
4. Share sample resources to support the most effective use of educational assistants.

In preparation for May wrap-up session:

1. Review proposed planning template for capacity-building activities
2. Brainstorm possibilities for topics, formats and using learning grant

Reflections on the role of educational assistants in your schools/districts

Objective #1:

How could you use the new Alberta Education video in your work?

Objective #2:

What do you see as key issues in how schools are currently making decisions related to educational assistants?

Objective #3:

What kind of strategies and understandings do you think educational assistants (and the students they work with) would benefit from most?

Objective #4:

What resources do you recommend to schools that want to build capacity of the teachers working with educational assistants?

Thinking ahead to our May wrap-up:

Planning your district's Capacity Building Activity

What questions do you have about the template? Suggestions for additions or revisions?

What ideas do you have about:

- the audience
- the focus
- the format
- how you might spend a learning grant?

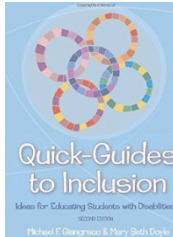
Reviewing the research

❑ Causton-Theoharis, Julie N., The Golden Rule of Providing Support in Inclusive Classrooms: Support Others as You Would Wish to Be Supported
Teaching Exceptional Children, Vol. 42, No. 2, pp. 36-43 (2009)
<http://www.kcdsg.org/files/content/Golden%20Rule.pdf>

❑ Giangreco, Michael F., One-to-One Paraprofessionals for Students with Disabilities in Inclusive Classrooms: Is Conventional Wisdom Wrong?
Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Volume 48, Number 1: 1-13, February 2010
[http://www.uvm.edu/~cdci/archives/mgiangre/IDD2010%2048\(1\)%201-13.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/~cdci/archives/mgiangre/IDD2010%2048(1)%201-13.pdf)

❑ Giangreco et al. "Be Careful What You Wish for": Five Reasons to Be Concerned about the Assignment of Individual Paraprofessionals
Teaching Exceptional Children, Vol. 37, No. 5, pp. 28-34 (2005)
<http://www.danceofpartnership.com/becareful.pdf>

❑ Rossetti, Zachery S. and Deborah P. Goessling. Paraeducators' Roles in Facilitating Friendships Between Secondary Students with and without Autism Spectrum Disorders or Developmental Disabilities
Teaching Exceptional Children, Vol. 42, No. 6, pp. 64-70 (2010)
Not currently available online



Facilitate Peer Interactions (p. 277)
Promote Student Responsibility (p. 279)