

Learning Labs

Session Title: 1:1 Laptop Rollouts: Including Special Populations

Session Description: Throughout the transformational change process required for a 1:1 technology initiative, we must be careful that opportunities are available equally to all students. In this session, we will describe steps and precautions administrators and teachers need to consider so the program remains inclusive and expansive. Schools must be proactive to maximize benefits to students who are frequently overlooked and underserved in large district initiatives. Beginning in August 2013, the Houston ISD began a 1:1 Laptop Initiative starting with eleven campuses. During this session Dr. Beth Goodrich and Samantha Rosenthal will share some of their observations and insights from the 1:1 Power Up initiative, including improvements for the inclusion of students with special needs. There will be discussions of practical classroom management issues as computers become universally available, pedagogical shifts and methods of involving stakeholders in every facet of the process.

Learner Outcome: Participants will be able to consider the challenges a school system experiences when embarking upon a 1:1 technology initiative. Participants will discuss the additional steps a school system needs to take to provide the planning and supports to successfully include students with special needs, their parents, and their teachers in the program implementation.

Topic/Category: Technology

Presenter(s):

Beth Goodrich

Senior Manager, Special Education

Houston ISD

Samantha Rosenthal

Program Specialist, Instructional Technology

Houston ISD

Learning Labs

Wednesday, July 16th

10:15 – 11:30 a.m. and 1 – 2:15 p.m.

Session Title: 7 Keys to Successful Employment for Students with Disabilities

Keynote Speaker: Nancy Shugart, Prove Them Wrong

Learning Labs

Session Title: Addressing Behavior in the IEP

Session Description: This presentation will provide an overview of how to develop a legally defensible IEP when a student presents with behavioral concerns.

Learner Outcome: The attendee will analyze strategies to facilitate ARD Committee's ability to develop legally defensible IEP's regarding student behavior.

Topic/Category: Legal

Presenter(s):

Michael Clark

Attorney

Walsh, Anderson, Gallegos, Green, & Treviño, P.C.

Gigi Maez

Attorney

Walsh, Anderson, Gallegos, Green, & Treviño, P.C.

Learning Labs

Session Title: Applied Behavior Analysis and Public Education

Session Description: The effective use of behavior management strategies and related policies continues to be a debated issue in public education. Despite overwhelming evidence espousing the benefits of applied behavior analysis (ABA), common misconceptions can contribute to reluctance on the part of educators to implement ABA strategies. This presentation will showcase ways that ABA can be effective, efficient and change the behavioral and academic landscape of our education system.

Learner Outcome: Attendees will be able to identify behavior analytic procedures appropriate for classroom, campus, and district intervention. Participants will evaluate research-based ABA procedures that work effectively with both small and large groups of students. Participants will compare ABA practices with those currently utilized in their district, campus, and/or classroom. Attendees will participate in discussions regarding how ABA procedures could improve their districts educational landscape.

Topic/Category: Behavior/Discipline

Presenter(s):

Lauren Lanier, M. Ed, BCBA
Educational Consultant / In-Home ABA Coordinator
Collaborative Autism Resources & Education (CARE)

Abigail Fannin, M. Ed., BCBA
ABA Tutor
Collaborative Autism Resources & Education (CARE)

Jennifer Schkade, M. Ed, BCBA
Behavior Analyst
Collaborative Autism Resources & Education (CARE)

Learning Labs

Session Title: Assessing the Risks: Specific Legal Issues Surrounding Evaluations

Session Description: District evaluations are increasingly under attack, not only for their results and recommendations, but also for which assessments are administered, how, and by whom. The IDEA has very specific requirements in some of these areas, but leaves much to the discretion of the district. From obtaining “informed parental consent” to deciding whether to grant IEE requests, to responding to questions about test protocols, two experienced special ed attorneys will equip you with the tools to avoid legal challenges to your district's assessment practices.

Learner Outcome: Participants will be able to prepare for and perform legally defensible assessments, and to better explain the procedural aspects of evaluations to parents and staff.

Topic/Category: Legal

Presenter(s):

Heather Rutland

Attorney

Eichelbaum, Wardell, Hansen, Powell & Mehl, PC

Holly Wardell

Attorney

Eichelbaum, Wardell, Hansen, Powell & Mehl, PC

Learning Labs

Session Title: Assigning Accurate and Meaningful Grades for Students with Disabilities

Session Description: This session will address the myths about grading students with disabilities and the laws/education code that regulate grading. We will discuss best practices for classroom grading including standards-based grading, the use of rubrics, and the role of the ARD committee in making accommodations or modifications for grading.

Learner Outcome: Participants will be able to distinguish between the myths and the law relating to grading students with disabilities. They will be able to recognize best practices for grading students with disabilities in the classroom and will be able to identify actions that ARD committees may take in relation to grading.

Topic/Category: Instruction

Presenter(s):

Lorna Salgado
Consultant
Region 10 ESC

Learning Labs

Session Title: Budget Smart: Special Education Initiatives that Improve Learning Outcomes

Session Description: As a nation, students identified with educational disabilities have been underperforming despite educators' diligence to improve learning outcomes. With increased accountability, district leadership is frequently turning to hiring additional staff and purchasing new programs – all of which increase the special education budget. This presentation will provide three models for improving outcomes for special education students through the implementation of system efficiencies and accountability systems to ensure individualized education programs are being implemented with fidelity. The focus will be on the advantages of an independent analysis of the programs and operations of special education.

Learner Outcome: Participants will be able to improve outcomes for students identified with educational disabilities through system efficiencies and effectiveness in Special Education. Participants will understand the three proven partnership models that will improve outcomes and control cost. Participants will gain additional knowledge regarding special education

Topic/Category: Leadership

Presenter(s):

Dr. Dorothea Gordon
Director of Special Education
Grand Prairie ISD

Dr. Michael Neiman
Executive Vice President for Clinical Operations/Project Director
Futures Education

Dr. Sylvia Ann Reyna Hatton
Senior Special Education Consultant
Futures Education

Learning Labs

Session Title: Building an 18+ Program: Where We've Been and Where We're Headed

Session Description: Join Burleson ISD as they share their journey; past, present and future, in developing and implementing a focus-driven 18+ program for students with intellectual disabilities. This session will include providing individualized, sustainable supports through special education that lead to positive, post-school results.

Learner Outcome:

Participants will acquire clarity on post-secondary outcomes as defined in IDEA. Participants will acquire knowledge of our District's three-year journey in developing a district-wide 18+ program. Participants will hear from currently-employed 18+ students and graduates. Presenters will share with participants their Transition Continuous Improvement Plan; and past, current, and future targets.

Topic/Category: Transition

Presenter(s):

Tana Hubbard
Executive Director of Special Education
Burleson ISD

Lucretia Gartrell
Special Education Coordinator
Burleson ISD

Vickie Mitchell
Consultant
Mitchell-Panter Consulting

Learning Labs

Session Title: [A Website Especially for Parents, Coming Soon!](#)

Session Description: Education Service Center Region 13 and Texas Parent to Parent have collaborated in building a website designed for parents of children with diagnosed or suspected disabilities through the age of five . This comprehensive site will provide downloadable resources, checklists and parent interviews that provide parent to parent support and will be accessible by handheld mobile devices and computers. The website, developed in English and Spanish, will include interviews and videos with Spanish-speaking and English-speaking families. All materials will be closed-captioned and ADA, screen-reader compliant. Get a preview of what this site has to offer.

Learner Outcome: Participants will be able to identify how to share this new website with parents as well as appropriate staff who work with children ages 3 through 5.

Topic/Category: Community/Parent Engagement

Presenter(s):

Cathy Miller

Program Manager for Special Education

Education Service Center Region 13

Learning Labs

Session Title: Consistent Response to Behavior: Are you a Coke Machine or Slot Machine?

Session Description: Without a strong understanding of behavior and the effect we have in increasing or decreasing inappropriate behavior, schools tend to react in the moment and many times inadvertently reinforce the inappropriate behaviors we are trying to control. In this session participants will learn about the science of behavior by learning how to effectively use punishment and reinforcement to increase appropriate behavior. Using this knowledge attendees will build a consistent protocol that will allow them to understand when it is appropriate to be like a coke machine or a slot machine.

Learner Outcome: Participants will understand how punishment and reinforcement works when changing behavior. Participants will then analyze how their responses may actually be increasing the inappropriate behavior they want to extinguish. Participants will build a consistent response protocol for dealing with behavior.

Topic/Category: Behavior/Discipline

Presenter(s):

Krystal Colhoff

Educational Consultant

Independent Consultant

Learning Labs

Session Title: A Low Cost and Effective Approach to Developing Communication and Literacy for Students with Severe Disabilities.

Session Description: Are you interested in developing a low tech/ low cost system of teaching communication and literacy skills to students with severe disabilities? Come hear how the Region 19 ESC Core Team brought an innovative idea to life through the Core Vocabulary Project. Easy to use and reproduce, core vocabulary boards are consistently utilized throughout special education classrooms. Parents have access to their own boards to use at home. Training for the core vocabulary project is simple and lends itself to immediate implementation across disciplines and settings.

Learner Outcome: Participants will evaluate the importance of communication for students with disabilities and the impact it has on the quality of their lives. Participants will have an alternative method for teaching communication. Participants will utilize the core vocabulary project to establish appropriateness for the recommendation of a high end device. Participants will identify the value of consistent use of core vocabulary across settings, tasks/activities, and disciplines.

Topic/Category: Instruction

Presenter(s):

Cindy Gee
Speech Language Pathologist
Ysleta ISD

Lillian Montes
Speech language pathologist
El Paso ISD

Yvonne Romero
Speech language pathologist
Ysleta ISD

Learning Labs

Session Title: Demystifying the Dispute Process

Session Description: Parents, advocates, and parent attorneys have a variety of options to formally challenge the decisions of the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Committee. This overview will help special education administrators develop an understanding of their options and what to expect when they receive a request for due process hearing, Texas Education Agency Complaint, Office of Civil Rights Complaint, and request for Mediation.

Learner Outcome: Participants will evaluate their options when they become involved in a formal dispute over the provision of a Free and Appropriate Public Education, and be able to identify their next steps when they become involved in a dispute over the provision of special education services.

Topic/Category: Legal

Presenter(s):

Michael Clark

Attorney

Walsh, Anderson, Gallegos, Green, & Treviño, P.C.

Learning Labs

Session Title: Equal Access: Online Learning Reduces Barriers to Grade Level Content

Session Description: During this interactive session, special education and general education teachers will demonstrate how online learning is providing opportunities for students with disabilities to engage in grade level content. Participants will learn how to support students as well as how to accommodate and modify digital content to differentiate learning. Within the context of what the research is telling us about online learning for special populations, participants will leave with strategies that help teachers become effective facilitators.

Learner Outcome: Participants will not only be able to describe what empirical and theoretical research says about supporting students with disabilities in online courses, they will also be able to apply that research to the learning environment. Participants will be able to identify specific instructional and coaching strategies to increase student success.

Topic/Category: Technology

Presenter(s):

Stacie Adams

Instructional Lead, Dropout Prevention Lab

Arlington ISD

Learning Labs

Session Title: Fact or Fiction? Myths in Special Education Law!

Session Description: They're back by popular demand! Join experienced special education attorneys Paula Maddox Roalson, Kelly Shook, and Pam Kaminsky in this interactive session as they distinguish fact from fiction and urban legend related to hot topics in special education law. Participants will leave with practical take aways related the ARD process, RTI, eligibility, evaluations, discipline, and much more. You won't want to miss this entertaining and informative session!

Learner Outcome: Learner Outcome: Participants will be able to identify common myths in special education law and distinguish true legal requirements from rumor or myth. Participants will identify practical implementation strategies for special education legal requirements in targeted areas, including RTI, discipline, and the ARD process.

Topic/Category: Legal

Presenter(s):

Paula Maddox Roalson

Attorney

Walsh, Anderson, Gallegos, Green, & Treviño, P.C.

Kelly Shook

Attorney

Walsh, Anderson, Gallegos, Green, & Treviño, P.C.

Pam Kaminsky

Attorney

Walsh, Anderson, Gallegos, Green & Trevino, P.C.

Learning Labs

Session Title: Focus on the End Game: Transition Conversations with Students and Families

Session Description: Transition starts at age three. In our brave new world, it becomes critical to begin conversations early about the future and what skills students will need to be successful after age 22. In this session, participants will learn strategies and ways to communicate with students and families about transition needs. Learn about tools available to help families set goals and start early in preparing their child for the future.

Learner Outcome: Participants will identify strategies for communicating with families and students about transition. Participants will demonstrate and share ways to teach pertinent transition skills to students. Participants will analyze research and identify reasons for the need to start transition planning early.

Topic/Category: Transition

Presenter(s):

Misty Terrell
Education Specialist
ESC Region 13

Learning Labs

Session Title: Foundation Graduation Plans and Special Education Success

Session Description: A foundation program with endorsements is designed to help students be workforce and/or college ready. This session will explore specifics of how to structure various endorsement paths so that the coherent sequence of courses offered by your high school will allow a student with disabilities the opportunity for post high school success.

Learner Outcome: The learner will be able to pull courses from their own high school offerings and create successful pathways to graduation for students with disabilities.

Topic/Category: Transition

Presenter(s):

Terry Wyatt
Executive Director
Tri-County SSA

Learning Labs

Session Title: Getting Ready for a TEA Monitoring Visit

Session Description: Most LEAs use an upcoming TEA on-site visit as a catalyst for improvement. Preparing for the visit allows the special education director to assess what is working and what needs attention. During this session, representative from Trinity Charter School will share the process used to prepare for a Residential Facility (RF) visit. Presenters will also share the method used to organize required documents for TEA review prior to the visit; and the lesson learned. Using this approach, the charter school received compliments from the TEA monitors and requests that the process be shared with others.

Learner Outcome: Participants will review a process used to prepare for a special education compliance audit. Participants will identify tips and strategies that might be helpful to ensure compliance with special education regulations in their own district or charter.

Topic/Category: Leadership

Presenter(s):

Darrell Cox
Director, Special Education
Trinity Charter School

Jackie Piar-Thomas
Superintendent
Trinity Charter Schools

Linda McDaniel
Special Education Specialist
ESC Region 13

Learning Labs

Session Title: Grow Your Grass Root Efforts: Legislative Advocacy Success Strategies

Members only with pre-registration

Session Description: The 84th Texas Legislative session begins in January 2015 and will be a critical one for education in Texas. Your voice is more important than ever. Don't miss this learning lab to learn how to effectively make your voice heard. Leave with tips, tools, links and more to grow your grass roots efforts. This session is especially important for TCASE members who have signed up to be a part of the Power 100.

Learner Outcome: Learners will identify tools and strategies to actively engage in the state legislative process

Topic/Category: Legislative

Presenter(s):

Janna Lilly
Director of Governmental Relations
TCASE

Don Schmidt
Northside ISD, TCASE Legislative Task Force

Robbie Stinnett
Duncanville ISD
TCASE Legislative Task Force

Cynthia Peltier
Director of Special Education
Clear Creek ISD

Julie Shields
TASB

Learning Labs

Session Title: Health Services, Nursing Services, and Private Duty Nurses

Session Description: This presentation will cover the statutory requirements and relevant case law regarding how to address health services and nursing services in the IEP, as well as navigating circumstances in which a student has a private duty nurse.

Learner Outcome: Attendees will be able to develop legally defensible health services and nursing services in the IEP, as well as summarize the legal issues regarding private duty nurses.

Topic/Category: Legal

Presenter(s):

Gigi Maez

Attorney

Walsh, Anderson, Gallegos, Green, & Treviño, P.C.

Learning Labs

Session Title: IEEs at Your Expense: What to Consider and How to Respond

Session Description: This session will focus on what school districts should consider and how they should respond when a parent presents a request for an independent educational evaluation. Topics covered include when parents are entitled to an IEE; a school district's duties subsequent to an IEE request; how to establish and enforce criteria for a publicly funded IEE; when and how a school district must respond to a request; and more.

Learner Outcome: Attendees will be able to evaluate and determine whether a parental request for an IEE is valid and appropriate. Attendees will be able to analyze whether their established criteria for IEEs is appropriate and effective.

Topic/Category: Assessment

Presenter(s):

Amber King

Attorney

Thompson & Horton LLP

Learning Labs

Session Title: Influencing Instruction: Special Education Administrators as Academic Leaders

Session Description: What is the role of the special education administrator as an instructional leader? What relationships, systems, and processes need to be in place to influence instruction? This moderated panel will include current and former special education directors sharing best practices and strategies for improving instruction in their districts.

Learner Outcome: Participants will engage in a discussion about the central office administrator's role as an instructional leader.

Topic/Category: Leadership

Presenter(s):

Matt Holloway
Specialist
ESC Region 13

Ann Jinkins
Coordinator
Region 13 ESC

Learning Labs

Session Title: Leading Instructional Rigor for Students with Multiple Impairment

Session Description: When a school district can effectively teach students who experience the most significant barriers to learning, that school district can effectively teach all students. Instructional rigor is the right of every student and is achieved by instructional design accurately informed by meaningful classroom based assessment and aligned to the state standards. Hear how Houston ISD is achieving this instructional design process for students with multiple impairment. Learn how the process is no different from any other instructional design process; it just requires a district level commitment to achieve.

Learner Outcome: Participants will identify a meaningful classroom based assessment strategy for students with multiple impairment. Participants will describe an instructional design process that leads to instructional rigor regardless of disability related learning challenges. Visualize effective instructional design based on meaningful classroom based assessment and aligned to state standards for students with multiple impairment.

Topic/Category: Instruction

Presenter(s):

Beth Goodrich
Senior Manager, Special Education
Houston ISD

Nicole Dupre
Assistive Technology Evaluation Facilitator
Houston ISD

Learning Labs

Session Title: LPAC/ARD Communication, Collaboration, and Compliance: Three Keys to Success

Session Description: The state requires the ARD committee to work closely with the LPAC to determine entry and exit criteria for students who are receiving special education services and identified as limited English Proficient (LEP). This session will highlight and clarify key requirements in this collaborative decision-making process that support the best interest of the student.

Learner Outcome: This session will provide key representatives of the district's ARD and LPAC committees with the opportunity to jointly review the State legal framework. At the same time, this joint team will review the local district policy and discuss actual implementation process to identify potential gaps and strengths. Participants will analyze data to determine and document entry and exit criteria for LEP students, use sample forms, and identify supports for state and district assessments.

Topic/Category: Leadership

Presenter(s):

Anna Mondragon
Project Manager for Evaluation
Education Service Center Region 19

Jose Velazquez
Bilingual/ESL Consultant
ESC Region 19

Learning Labs

Session Title: LRE and Access to the General Curriculum: One District's Journey

Session Description: The IDEA 2004 provides that students who are receiving special education services have the opportunity to participate in their education in the least restrictive environment. Students with disabilities are also required to have access, be involved in, and progress in the general curriculum. Through a process of reviewing student data that included attendance, grades, discipline, assessments (state & local), and the individual education plan, Burleson ISD conducted student folder audits with campus stakeholders and centralized special education staff to address the least restrictive environment. This session will review the process, forms, data and feedback that Burleson ISD implemented. Participants will leave with both an action plan and the tools necessary to prepare and perform this process.

Learner Outcome: Participants will demonstrate an understanding of the folder audit process developed by the Burleson ISD. Participants will be able to efficiently and effectively conduct the folder audit process in their respective districts. Participants will identify and describe the folder audit forms created and presented by the BISSD. Participants will be able to analyze the data collected and determine appropriate recommendations as a result of the folder audit process.

Topic/Category: Evidence/Research Based Practice

Presenter(s):

Tana Hubbard Ph.D.

Executive Director of Special Education

Burleson ISD

Lucretia Gartrell

Coordinator of Special Education

Burleson ISD

Learning Labs

Session Title: Meaningful Participation When You Don't Speak the Language

Session Description: The opportunity for parent participation is a mandate of IDEA for the ARD process, but what if the parent doesn't speak English? Many times an ARD committee will pull in at the last minute anyone who speaks the parents' native language. But, do they understand the difference between interpretation (getting the message across) and translation (converting words from one language to another)? Join us as we explore how to go beyond the parent being at the ARD to meaningfully participating in the discussions and decisions of the ARD.

Learner Outcome: Participants will be able to identify strategies to encourage parent participation in an ARD meeting and the difference between interpretation and translation. Participants will explore effective strategies interpreters use to have communication flow between people of different languages. Presenters will discuss the importance of properly trained interpreters; it's more than just knowing a second language.

Topic/Category: Community/Parent Engagement

Presenter(s):

Karen Slaughter

ESC Consultant

Region 10 ESC

Fabio Torres

Senior Education Recruitment Manager

Catholic Charities Fort Worth

Learning Labs

Session Title: Mock Trial: Demonstration of a Due Process Hearing

Session Description: Eric, acting as attorney for a school district, and Charlotte, acting as attorney for a student, will present a mock Due Process Hearing based on a hypothetical fact pattern. Live witnesses will be called for direct and cross examination. Evidence will be offered, and following discussion and participant predictions, a decision will be rendered. Participants will gain knowledge of what to expect, what can go wrong, and what to do right in a due process hearing.

Learner Outcome: Participants will, through analysis and evaluation of witness testimony at a mock due process hearing, be able to identify effective and credible information to present to a Hearing Officer to help ensure a favorable decision.

Topic/Category: Legal

Presenter(s):

Charlotte Salter

Attorney at Law

Walsh, Anderson, Gallegos, Green & Treviño, P.C.

Eric Rodriguez

Attorney at Law

Learning Labs

Session Title: Putting It All Together: Conducting FBAs and Developing Effective BIPs

Session Description: Conducting a functional behavior analysis to develop a behavior intervention plan is an essential part of the IEP process. However, too often the procedures are not well defined and result in vague BIPs, frustrated educators, meager student outcomes, and litigation. This session outlines procedures for a quality FBA process to develop effective BIPs. Participants in this session will learn to: identify the required and recommended elements of the FBA and BIP, select a variety of direct and indirect behavior measures, develop targeted interventions based on FBA findings, and monitor the effectiveness of the BIP and student progress.

Learner Outcome: Participants will learn to identify required and recommended elements of the FBA and BIP, select appropriate tools to measure student behavior progress, and develop function-based interventions.

Topic/Category: Behavior/Discipline

Presenter(s):

Stacy Morgan

Consultant

Emergent Tree Education, Inc.

Learning Labs

Session Title: Reinventing Special Education: Closing the Gap between Disabled and Non-disabled Students

Session Description: Despite improvements in academic achievement among students with disabilities (SWDs), the gap between SWDs and their non-disabled peers continues to exist. In many states, this gap has widened rather than narrowed. This session will review current data on the achievement of SWDs and their non-disabled peers. In addition, the measurement of this gap will be discussed as a component of results driven accountability, the new paradigm for IDEA compliance being promulgated by OSEP at the US Dept of Education. Evidence validated strategies for measuring monitoring, and reducing this gap will be presented.

Learner Outcome: - Participants will learn about the achievement gap between SWDs and their non-disabled peers, and learn about strategies for measuring, monitoring the achievement gap. Participants will identify evidence validated strategies which can reduce the achievement gap between SWDs and their non-disabled peers and learn about results driven accountability. Participants will learn about the metric of the achievement gap as it relates to RDA and the proposed use of results driven accountability for monitoring IDEA compliance.

Topic/Category: Closing the Achievement Gap

Presenter(s):

Robert Pasternack
Chief Education Officer
Accelify

Learning Labs

Session Title: STAAR A, an Overview of a Newly Developed Accommodated Version of STAAR

Session Description: Attendees to this session will receive the latest information available from TEA regarding the newly developed online accommodated version of STAAR, known as STAAR A. Select item examples will be shared and questions will be answered as time permits.

Learner Outcome: Participants will be able to identify and describe recently developed online accommodated version of STAAR, known as STAAR A.

Topic/Category: Other

Presenter(s):

Justin Porter
Director, Assessments for Special Populations Student Assessment Division
Texas Education Agency

Learning Labs

Session Title: STAAR Alternate, Redesigned for 2015

Session Description: Attendees to this session will receive the latest information available from TEA regarding the newly redesigned STAAR Alternate. Questions will be answered as time permits.

Learner Outcome: Participants will be able to describe and summarize the redesigned STAAR Alternate.

Topic/Category: Other

Presenter(s):

Justin Porter

Director, Assessments for Special Populations Student Assessment Division

Texas Education Agency

Learning Labs

Session Title: Ten Common Complaints: Views From a Former Parent Attorney

Session Description: After more than three years of advocating for students and parents in special education matters, Chris Schulz switched sides and started representing school districts. This presentation will focus on the most frequent complaints Chris received from parents about their child's education. For instance, what secret password gets a child referred to special education? Why does the doctor say autism but the school says ADHD? Mr. Schulz will also focus on how those complaints can be resolved prior to becoming a major dispute.

Learner Outcome: Attendees will be able to identify the most common areas for parent dissatisfaction and use that information to solve problems and avoid major disputes.

Topic/Category: Legal

Presenter(s):

Chris Schulz

Attorney

Richards, Lindsay, and Martin

Learning Labs

Session Title: The Balancing Act: Identifying Disproportionality and Possible Interventions

Session Description: This presentation will address the various issues involved in the identification, monitoring and prevention of disproportionality in special education. The information presented will assist districts in becoming aware of the concerns involved with being identified as disproportionate. The Region One website for disproportionality will be showcased.

Learner Outcome: Attendees will be able to use the information provided to identify causes for disproportionality in their own district. Attendees will be able to prepare possible intervention strategies using the disproportionality manual found on the Region One website.

Topic/Category: Leadership

Presenter(s):

Margaret Barrera
Education Specialist
Region One ESC

Ruth Solis
Special Education Coordinator
Region One ESC

Learning Labs

Session Title: The Paraprofessional and Co-teach Roadshow...Effective Strategies for Successful Partnerships

Session Description: The beginning of the school year is hectic, filled with many things to do and tasks to be accomplished. Often, both co-teach and paraprofessional partnerships are not thought about until the day the students enter the classroom. Come learn how to have quick and effective conversations prior to the first day of school between your special education and general education staff. Practical tools, guides, and strategies will be shared providing participants avenues to start the first day of school without any bumps in the road.

Learner Outcome: Participants will describe the role of the special education teacher and the general education teacher. Participants will describe the role of the paraprofessional. Participants will evaluate tools to help aid in discussions between special education and general education staff. Participants will evaluate practical and hand-on strategies to build effective communication.

Topic/Category: Instruction

Presenter(s):

Shelly Bratcher

K-12 Professional Development, Curriculum & Instruction Coordinator

Lubbock ISD

Kami Finger

Executive Director

Lubbock ISD

Learning Labs

Session Title: Thinking Outside the Task Box: Development of Cross Curriculum On-Campus Vocational Programs

Session Description: Students enrolled in secondary life skills programs are often asked to continue to address classroom goals using the same interventions. Task boxes and task folders are effective but overused with this age group. Many academic, vocational, and therapeutic goals can be addressed in a meaningful ways through cross curriculum vocational programs.

Learner Outcome: Attendees will be able to incorporate academic TEKS, vocational goals, and therapeutic intervention from all related services through a purposeful cross curriculum vocational program.

Topic/Category: Transition

Presenter(s):

Stephanie Drake-Woods
Occupational Therapist
Kerrville ISD

Ashley Roseberry
Life Skills Teacher-Transitional Service Coordinator
Kerrville ISD

Shelby Fiedler
Life Skills Teacher
Kerrville ISD

Learning Labs

Session Title: Transition Assessment: Person-Centered Planning Approach

Session Description: The Texas Institute for Person Centered Practices, a partnership between the Texas Center for Disability Studies and the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University collaborated with districts in Texas to develop a Person Centered Transition Assessment and train school staff to facilitate the person-centered process. The process creates an excellent description of the student, identifies abilities and interests, helps establish achievable goals, identifies coordinated set of activities and develops a workable plan of action to develop summary of performance. The presentation will provide an overview of the process, allow participants to practice some of the skills and learn implementation strategies.

Learner Outcome: Participants will utilize person-centered tools to develop a transition assessment that insures that the student and parents' input is included. Participants will learn and practice listening skills to insure that students with disabilities are heard and their thoughts are recorded when developing a transition assessments. Participants using a real life situation, will use a person-centered approach to determine what is important to a person (make him feel happy/satisfied) and what is important for a person (insure safety and dignity)

Topic/Category: Transition

Presenter(s):

Debbie Wilkes

Educational Consultant

Institute on Person Centered Practices

Learning Labs

Session Title: Update from the Courts that Count: Recent Circuit Court Decisions

Session Description: Join attorney Nona Matthews for this popular review of the circuit court cases that have been decided since the last TCASE conference. The courts have continued to be busy deciding issues such as evaluation, eligibility, ARD committee meeting procedural requirements, placement in the least restrictive environment, private placement at public expense, provision of a free appropriate public education, and various procedural issues. Make sure that you are current on the most recent decisions from the courts that count!

Learner Outcome: Attendees will be able to identify current trends in legal cases interpreting the IDEA in order to analyze district compliance.

Topic/Category: Legal

Presenter(s):

Nona Matthews

Attorney

Walsh, Anderson, Gallegos, Green, & Treviño, P.C.