

Announcement of Opportunity for Participation in Arizona Statewide Autism Project (AzSAP)

*An Innovative Project in Cooperation with
Arizona Department of Education, Early Childhood Education Unit
Exceptional Student Services & STAR® Autism Support*



Training Site

Pre-K Elementary

To meet the needs of students with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

LEARN EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGIES

GAIN valuable resources for implementing a **COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM**

INTEGRATE inclusive practices with **PROVEN EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES**

Application Deadline: 6/15/15

Return the attached application to:
ECEInBox@azed.gov

Training Site Development for Currently Implementing Pre-K/Elementary Teams

You are invited to participate in an innovative project during the 2015 - 2016 school year designed to increase school district team's capacity to work effectively with students with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Districts who have previously participated in the AzSECAP (Arizona Statewide Early Childhood Autism Project) will be trained in coaching strategies to help support new implementers. New staff will receive initial training and curriculum materials. District coaches will be identified to support other local implementers. This model of developing training sites and coaches is a proven approach to building capacity. It encourages a system-wide approach that improves student outcomes, increases efficiency and improves staff satisfaction.

Training sites and district coaches will serve as a local in-district resource to sustain the implementation of evidence-based practices over the long term.

Participants will consist of up to 10 members from Local Education Agency teams.

➔ **Including at least:**

- identified coach(es) from previous training cohort(s)
- two special education teachers
- one general education teacher
- one related service provider
- two teaching assistants or paraprofessionals (one from each selected pre-K or elementary site)

Professional development will include the following:

- 3-day workshop for background and a strong emphasis on evidence-based teaching strategies and practices for students with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- 3 visits of individualized on-site coaching and support per team (6 total days per LEA)
- Administrator and related service staff resources

Each LEA team of 10 members will also receive two sets of the following free materials:

- STAR Program Combination Kits
- DT Essentials Reinforcement Kits
- Routine Essentials Visual Package
- Extensive resources and support materials

The Local Education Agency's responsibilities include:

- A commitment to participate in the entirety of the project.
- Hiring of substitute teachers and payment of travel expenses for team members.
- No additional financial commitment is required (funding is supplemented by Arizona Department of Education Unit and Exceptional Student Services)

One focus of this project will be to increase reading proficiency for students with special needs in grades 3 through 8. Districts with an identified need in this area are encouraged to apply.

Applications will be reviewed by committee based on submission date, geographical location, number of students with ASD, number of students with ASD being served and demonstrated needs. Districts must have previously been part of the project as an Early Childhood/Elementary Education Team.

Training to be Provided by STAR® Autism Support

STAR® Autism Support has extensive experience providing school districts effective tools to implement evidence-based strategies and to train and coach school teams in these strategies. SAS provides workshops, training and support to school districts throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. SAS has successfully collaborated with school districts, private agencies, parents and the broader community to implement successful programs for children with autism.



The STAR Program is a comprehensive behavioral program that incorporates the applied behavior analysis strategies of: Discrete Trial Training, Pivotal Response Training and Teaching Functional Routines. STAR also promotes the use of positive behavior interventions, environmental supports (visual supports, visual schedules, etc) in inclusive and self-contained settings.

Name

Position

Email Address

Lead Contact LEA Team: _____ Phone #: _____
Email: _____

Please describe your program's current services for students with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder. Include what settings your students with ASD are served in (e.g. cross categorical classroom, self-contained autism classroom, general education classrooms/inclusive).

Explain why your district needs this professional development for students with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder and how this project might address an identified need in your district including reading proficiency.

Preferred Workshop Dates

(this three day initial training will be held in the Phoenix area)

Please rank possible dates (1-2, with 1 being the most desirable) for the initial three day training. ADE will notify you which date you were assigned to attend.

- July 29, 30, 31
- October 21, 22, 23

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

_____ agrees to provide school team participation as identified in the
Admin Initials (Name of School District) application for the entirety of the project.

_____ Our school district agrees to send the identified Team to the three day professional
Admin Initials development event. Team members also agree to and will be available for all
on-site coaching days.

_____ As a director of the school district named above, I have informed the chosen Team of the
Admin Initials mandatory three days of professional development and additional professional
development/on-site coaching at dates to be determined.

_____ Agree to evaluate student outcomes throughout the project and after the project ends
Admin Initials with a focus on reading proficiency.

_____ As part of this collaborative effort, professional development, materials and on-site
Admin Initials coaching will be provided at minimal cost to the Districts who participate. The District's
responsibilities include the School Team's commitment to participate in the entirety of
the project, the District hiring of substitute teacher and payment of travel expenses for
team members.

_____ Agree that grant funds may be discontinued at any time if the assurances are not being
Admin Initials met, and will reimburse the ADE for all grant costs (e.g., training, registration, travel).

Name of Administrator

Signature of Administrator

Date Signed

* Cancellation Policy: If you receive notification that your application has been selected to participate in this opportunity, you must notify ADE in writing at ECEinbox@azed.gov of your intent to decline participation 60 days before the first day of your scheduled training date. Any cancellations after the 60 day period will not be honored and the district will be held responsible for all costs.