



april is national autism awareness month



VCU Autism Center for Excellence

Make it real.

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY



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Funded by VDOE grant # 881-61172-H027A150107

The VCU Autism Center for Excellence (VCU-ACE) is a university-based technical assistance, professional development, and educational research center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in the Commonwealth of Virginia. VCU-ACE is dedicated to improving services to individuals with ASD and to the implementation of evidence-based practices in schools and the community.

Free Online Courses Offered

- ASD for Paraprofessionals: Providing Effective Instruction and Supports
- Strategies for Supporting Positive Behaviors in Students with ASD
- Foundations of Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Evidence-Based Practices to Teach Students with ASD
- My Child was Just Identified with an Autism Spectrum Disorder: Now What Do I Do?
- Improving Goal Mastery through Data-Based Decision-Making

These free courses run fully online and are intended to meet the needs of educators, parents, and professionals in the community.



ACE Provides Training for Educators, Family Members, and Professionals

Professionals and family members often need training in ASD to provide effective and individualized services and supports. VCU-ACE offers a variety of training activities including:

- Online Instructional Courses
- Webcasts and Seminars
- How To Video Series
- Virtual Learning Communities in Autism
- Post Baccalaureate Certificate in ASD
- Coursework in Applied Behavior Analysis

Professional Development activities are provided on many topics related to ASD. Most trainings are provided through the use of online technology and are accessible from our website: www.vcuautismcenter.org



ACE Provides Resources and Information on ASD

Knowing where to go for information on ASD can be overwhelming. VCU-ACE provides resources to help guide you on a variety of topics.

- Guides
- Factsheets and Research Briefs
- Agency Information
- Video Library
- Research Articles and Books

ACE Provides Technical Assistance to School Divisions

VCU-ACE provides technical assistance to school divisions in the Commonwealth. Students with ASD often require a higher level of structure and carefully designed direct instruction to acquire the academic and functional skills needed to become independent adults. Focus is placed on long-term systems change that will result in service improvements of administrators and educators, and ultimately improve outcomes of students with ASD.

VCU-ACE supports educators and families through an on-going program of technical assistance with three levels of intervention:

School Division Supports

- Coaching selected divisions in evidenced-based practices
- Facilitating ASD Service Improvement Plans
- Mentoring educators and administrative staff
- Providing on-going feedback
- Developing division specific target goals

Regional Supports

- Creating Communities of Learning (CoLAs) for regional experts
- Sharing resources
- Enhancing implementation of evidence-based practices

Commonwealth Supports

- Offering web-based resources
- Providing targeted training

School divisions for 2014-2017 Cohort 2 receiving Technical Assistance through VCU-ACE are:

- Alexandria City Public Schools
- Bedford County Public Schools
- Chesapeake County Public Schools
- Franklin County Public Schools
- Spotsylvania County Public Schools
- Warren County Public Schools

VCU-ACE Partners

- Virginia Department of Education
- Behavioral Health & Dev. Services
- VCU School of Education
- VCU School of Medicine (PM&R)
- VCU Health System
- Bon Secours Richmond Health System
- Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services



“Comprehensive educational services that provide evidence-based practice are critical for effective treatment and care.”

John Eisenberg, Virginia Department of Education

For more information about the VCU-Autism Center for Excellence please contact: _____

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