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Partnership for Capacity Development in Schools



Partnership for Capacity Development in Schools[®]



In an effort to assist public schools' capacity for offering appropriate services to

students through the use of evidence-based practices and teaching strategies, as well as the autism skill competencies developed by The Virginia Autism Council, Commonwealth Autism Service has developed a unique service delivery model in partnership with public schools in Virginia.

Our **Partnership for Capacity Development[®]** is unlike traditional consultative and didactic training models in that our staff members are deployed or embedded directly in the service provider's environment.

We work through a strategic planning process with members of the division to:

- Assess areas of strength and need
- Develop an action plan
- Support staff and students
 - provide ongoing staff development pertaining to evidence-based practices
 - offer support for students in need of intensive behavioral intervention

Partnership for Capacity Development in Schools[©]

Needs Assessment

Staff from Commonwealth Autism Service gather information about the services that are currently being provided for students with autism through the use of focus group discussions (teaching staff, related services staff, and parents), classroom observation, and questionnaires.

Specifically addressing the following areas:

- Physical environment and appropriateness for persons with autism and related disorders
- Educational Programming
- Behavioral Programming
- Transition Planning
- Instructional Personnel and Staff Development
- Team Approach and Systems Support

Upon completion of the needs assessment, a comprehensive report is submitted to the school division detailing the strengths and needs along with recommendations pertaining to staff development.

Training



Based on the recommendations of the needs assessment, our staff work collaboratively with the school division to plan and offer professional development opportunities.

Because our staff are embedded directly into each division, we are able to introduce key concepts and strategies through didactic training, and then support staff in the classroom as they learn to implement these techniques.

Strategic Planning

We meet quarterly with special education directors to discuss goals and objectives to ensure stabilization of the change effort.



Academic Coursework

Through collaboration with local colleges and universities, educators and other professionals have opportunities to pursue academic coursework pertaining to autism and behavior analysis. Commonwealth Autism Service often provides the supervision hours that are necessary to sit for the Applied Behavior Analysis certification exam.



The Learning Institute[©]

Launched in the fall of 2009, The Learning Institute[©] is designed to provide:

- Professional development opportunities (coursework, workshops, conferences, etc.) for the BCBA[®] community in Virginia and neighboring states.
- Professional development opportunities for all professionals working in the area of autism.
- CEUs for satisfaction of professional development requirements for various professions.
- Research centered on our partnerships with public schools on the efficacy of our interventions.
- Approved Continuing Education (ACE) provided by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board[®] (BACB[®]).

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- **Partnership for Capacity Development in Schools and the embedded staffing model[©]**
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