

With Support from



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Announcing the Request for Applications for
Division wide Technical Assistance:
Exemplary Services to Support Students with
Autism Spectrum Disorder

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Presenters

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Request for Applications

- From School Divisions
- To improve services for students with ASD
- We will select 5 - 7 school divisions
- Comprehensive review process
- Successful applications will demonstrate a clearly defined strategy for systemic changes across the school division



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Background and Purpose

- ASD had risen dramatically and included 22,700 students in the 2018-2019 VDOE child count
- Students with ASD frequently require higher intensity services and structure
- School divisions have requested assistance to meet the needs of these students
- Since its inception VCU ACE has worked with 24 school divisions to address school division needs for students with ASD

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Services and Model

- Selected school divisions will receive 40 to 50 hours per month of embedded technical assistance from VCU-ACE
- The top down/bottom up model has 5 phases of implementation
 - Phase 1: Exploration
 - Phase 2: Installation
 - Phase 3: Initial Implementation
 - Phase 4: Full Implementation
 - Phase 5: Sustainability and Maintenance



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Evidence Based Practices

- From the VDOE Guidelines for Educating Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders
 - http://www.doe.virginia.gov/special_ed/disabilities/autism/technical_asst_documents/autism_guidelines.pdf
- From the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders document, Evidence Based Practices for Children, Youth, and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders
 - <http://fpg.unc.edu/sites/fpg.unc.edu/files/resources/reports-and-policy-briefs/2014-EBP-Report.pdf>

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Eligibility

- Public School Divisions in Virginia
- **Not** previously a part of Cohort 1, 2, or 3
- Engaged and will continue to engage in meaningful planning
- Single school divisions or regional programs only
- Only the regional program will receive TA, not the cooperating school divisions comprising the regional program



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Description of Technical Assistance Services

- TA provided in a wide array of division selected goals determined collaboratively by team
- Coordinated approach to
 - Division wide systems change
 - Professional development
 - Coaching
 - Mentoring
 - Services improvement



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Technical Assistance Services Includes:

- Assessment of current practices and programs for the purpose of developing a strengths and needs profile and informing goal development
- Facilitation of the division Autism Services Improvement Team (ASIT)
- Development of an Autism Services Improvement Plan (ASIP or SIP)
- Facilitation of Professional Learning Communities
- Ongoing facilitation of a data-based decision making process

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Expectations for Selected Divisions

- Dedicated division project coordinator (40-50 hours/month)
- Development of ASIT (10-20 participants)
- Development of Core ASIT teams (3-8 participants)

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Expectations for Selected Divisions

- Special Education Director and other leadership staff attend meetings with ACE-TA staff at least two times yearly
- Schedule and ensure regular attendance of ASIT members at regular monthly meetings with the entire ASIT to review goals, activities, and progress
- Attend regional Communities of Leaders in Autism (CoLA meetings) and Summer CoLA Institute
- Participate in a presentation, speed-share or other information sharing activity at Summer CoLA
- Link to the VCU- ACE website on the division website



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Culpeper's Experience

- Why did you apply for the ACE grant?
- What have your experiences been with the ACE project over the past 3 years?
- What has your involvement been and how has that impacted your progress as a division?



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Expected Outcomes (Based upon division goals)

- Increase technical skills & knowledge of staff
- Improve quality of instructional practices
- Increase ability of child study teams to identify students with ASD
- Increase knowledge of the provision of positive behavior supports

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Expected Outcomes (Based upon division goals)

- Increase the quality of IEPs
- Increase the ability of general education staff to implement accommodations and modifications
- Increase knowledge of stakeholders regarding assistive technology
- Increase parent/school partnerships
- Increase knowledge of transition planning, intervention and social skills instruction



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Submission Process

- Application Available: October 15, 2019
- Application Due: December 16, 2019, 5:00pm Sharp
- Site Visits to division finalists: January 6 - February 7, 2020
- Interviews with selected division stakeholders completed by February 14, 2020
- Notice of Selection: February 18, 2020
- Phase 1: Assessment begins March - April 2020
- Autism Excellence Academy: June 22-23, 2020

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Application

- 25 pages
- Double spaced
- 1" margins on all pages
- 12 point font
- Can be emailed to: cmschall@vcu.edu and/or secarr@vcu.edu
- Can be mailed to:
 - Melissa Yopp
Virginia Commonwealth University
Autism Center for Excellence
1314 West Main Street
P.O. Box 842011
Richmond, VA 23284-2001

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Considerations for Selection

- Completeness of application
- Potential to benefit from technical assistance
- Demonstrated commitment to change
- Strength of existing supports
- Vision for systems change
- Explanation of plan to implement division wide professional development
- Explanation of current initiatives taking place within the division
- Letters of commitment from designated stakeholders



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Application

- Cover Sheet (Required)
- Section A: Background Information on the School Division
- Section B: Existing services and number of students with ASD by grade level and placement
- Section C: Challenges and unmet training needs
- Section D: What's your why and goals?

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Application

- Section E: Division Resources and Processes and to support Autism Services Improvement Goals
- Section F: Past and Present Division initiatives
- Section G: Division Commitment (letters of support not included in page limit)

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For More Information...

- Access the application in a fillable PDF format at:
http://vcuautismcenter.org/documents/request_for_application_2020_2023.pdf

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Questions?

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