



VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION
OF SECONDARY SCHOOL
PRINCIPALS

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The Professional Association of Middle and High School Administrators

MEMORANDUM

January 15, 2009

TO: Superintendents of Virginia Public School Divisions
Directors of Special Education

FROM: Randy D. Barrack, Executive Director

RE: Middle School and High School Administrators – Lead Special Education Teachers
Workshops in February

The educational achievement of students with disabilities continues to be a major concern throughout the Commonwealth. In September 2008, Congress passed and the President signed the ADA amendments, which go into effect this month. These amendments mean dramatic changes, including significantly expanded eligibility of students under Section 504. Specifically, the language calls for free, appropriate public education (FAPE) for students with disabilities that is comparable to that provided to students without disabilities. Further, students can receive related services under Section 504 even if they are not provided any special education, making the amendments particularly critical for regular education leaders.

To assist administrators throughout the Commonwealth in understanding and implementing these new requirements, the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals, the Virginia Foundation for Educational Leadership, and the Virginia Department of Education are sponsoring a series of Special Education Workshops tailored specifically for middle and high school administrators and lead special education teachers on separate dates at the Holiday Inn Koger Center, 10800 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond, Virginia.

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| <p>High School Administrators and Lead Teachers Special Education Workshop – February 4 Middle School Administrators and Lead Teachers Special Education Workshop – February 5 <i>Both workshops begin at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at 4:00 p.m.</i></p> |
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Each workshop is comprised of two (2) segments. The morning sessions will discuss:

- Interconnections between NCLB and IDEA (and Section 504);
- Eligibility under IDEA and Section 504, including RTI and ADA, respectively;
- FAPE under IDEA and the role of PRR; and
- Inclusion, discipline and liability under IDEA and Section 504.

NASSP AFFILIATE

4909 Cutshaw Avenue • Richmond, VA 23230

In addition, these sessions will present significant litigation developments under Section 504 that affect students with IEPs under the IDEA. They will be especially pertinent to regular educators, such as principals and other 504 building-level coordinators. Building and district teams are welcome, since the workshops are designed to provide updated information applicable to both regular and special education leadership.

The afternoon sessions will focus on two exciting educational models. The Strategic Instructional Model (SIM) is an integrated model of research-validated practices that promote effective teaching and learning of critical content. The Content Literacy Continuum (CLC) provides a comprehensive and coordinated approach to improving literacy for all students in secondary schools that will enable them to meet higher standards. Both the SIM and the CLC were developed by the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning. Supported by 30 years of classroom-based research, SIM has impacted students, schools and divisions by narrowing the achievement gap, and is one of the few evidence-based secondary school literacy models meeting NCLB legislation criteria.

Each workshop will be facilitated by highly acclaimed researchers, administrators and educators well-versed on the challenges and opportunities presented by special education instruction.

Dr. Perry A. Zirkel is a university professor of education and law at Lehigh University, where he was formerly dean of the College of Education. He has a Ph.D. in Educational Administration, a J.D. from the University of Connecticut, and a Master of Laws degree from Yale University. Dr. Zirkel is also the author of the two-volume reference, *Section 504, the ADA and the Schools*, updated annually and available from LRP Publications. Dr. Zirkel has written over 1,000 scholarly articles.

Ms. Tina Spencer and **Ms. Sue Land** are SIM professional developers at the Training/Technical Assistance Centers (T/TAC) at The College of William and Mary. Both have extensive knowledge and experience in promoting effective instructional routines and strategies through their implementation work in SIM. Ms. Spencer and Ms. Land will present an overview of strategies to improve the achievement of students with disabilities and all students in middle and high schools, respectively.

Middle and High School Principals in the Commonwealth who have had success in implementing SIM will be on hand to provide their particular perspectives based on their individual schools' development of the five (5) levels of CLC.

These Special Education Workshops should provide a solid foundation for building-level administrators and lead teachers as they begin the process of integrating new tools, such as SIM and CLC, into their strategies for delivering first-class instruction to students with disabilities. Please pass this important information along to the appropriate administrators and teachers in your division and encourage their participation in this important and timely workshop series. The deadline for registration is January 27, 2009. Hotel accommodations at the Holiday Inn are \$89.00 (single/double) + applicable taxes. Workshop fees are \$130 per VASSP member and \$150.00 per nonmember. Fees for additional registrants from the same school are \$125 per person.

Should you have questions, or need additional information, please feel free to contact Sydney Thomas at 804.355.2777 or by e-mail at stthomas@vassp.org.

TO: Middle & High School Administrators
And Lead Special Education Teachers

FROM: Randy D. Barrack, VASSP Executive Director

Sponsored by
**Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals
Virginia Foundation for Educational Leadership
Virginia Department of Education**

If you have received this fax in error and would like to have your fax number removed from the VASSP list, please call 1.800.249.8001, and we will gladly comply with your request. Thank you.

School Administrators – Lead Special Education Teachers Workshops

LOCATION: Holiday Inn Koger Center • 10800 Midlothian Turnpike • Richmond, VA

PLEASE CHECK (✓) WHICH WORKSHOP YOU WILL BE ATTENDING BELOW:

High School, February 4, 2009
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Middle School, February 5, 2009
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The educational achievement of students with disabilities continues to be a major concern throughout the Commonwealth. Recent amendments to the ADA, which go into effect **THIS MONTH**, mean dramatic changes, including significantly expanded eligibility of students under §504. Specifically, students with disabilities can receive related services under §504 even if they are not provided any special education, making the amendments particularly critical for regular education leaders.

Morning session will discuss interconnections between NCLB and IDEA (and §504); eligibility under IDEA and §504; FAPE under IDA and the role of PRR; and inclusion, discipline and liability under IDEA and §504. The sessions will present significant litigation developments under §504 that affect students with IEPs under the IDEA. **Afternoon session** will focus on two exciting educational models: the **Strategic Instructional Model (SIM)**, an integrated model of research-validated practices that promote effective teaching and learning of critical content, and the **Content Literacy Continuum (CLC)** which provides a comprehensive and coordinated approach to improving literacy for *all* students in **middle and high schools**. These workshops should provide a solid foundation for building-level administrators and lead teachers as they begin the process of integrating new tools, such as SIM and CLC, into their strategies for delivering first-class instruction to students with disabilities and narrowing the achievement gap.

Both workshops will be held at the Holiday Inn Koger Center in Richmond. For overnight accommodations, please call the Holiday Inn Koger Center at 804.379.3800. Ask for reservations and be sure to state that you are attending a VASSP Special Education Workshop to receive the special conference rate of \$89 (+13% tax). Participants are responsible for their own hotel accommodations. Make your room reservations early to avoid disappointment.

Workshop fee is \$130 for VASSP Members, \$150 for non-members and \$125 for each additional registrant, regardless of VASSP membership affiliation.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Title _____

School Name _____ School Division _____

School Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School Phone _____ School Fax _____ School e-mail (*for confirmation of workshop registration*) _____

FORM OF PAYMENT: Check Enclosed P.O. Attached
 \$130 VASSP Member
 \$150 Non-Member
 \$125 Additional registrant from the same school

CANCELLATION POLICY: POSTED ON VASSP WEB SITE
www.vapprincipals.org

Registration Deadline: January 27, 2009

Send completed form and payment to:
VASSP
4909 Cutshaw Avenue
Richmond, VA 23230
Fax: 804.355.4262