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TEPS Abstract

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Council for Exceptional Children Convention, January 29 – February 2, 2019

I would like to thank the TEPS Committee and Dr. Hicks for allowing me to attend the Council for Exceptional Children National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The four days were filled with an abundance of information and sessions that will benefit my students and my teaching methodology. The sessions that will have immediate impact are described as follows:

Students with ASD Overcoming Barriers: The "3 Rs" of Transition (Responsibility, Regulation, Relationships): This presentation described barriers to employment faced by young adults with autism. The session focused on obtaining and maintaining competitive, community-based employment. It is critical for young adults with autism to develop responsibility, regulation and relationships to be successful in their journey to independence and how this can be implemented in the classroom. A focus will be on developing foundational skills for college and career learning plans.

Educating High School Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders: From Planning to Intervention: This session discussed the process of setting up a comprehensive intervention plan for students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in secondary settings. Four core domains: reading comprehension in academics, independence and behavior, social skills, and transition planning were discussed. My greatest focus will be on transition planning essential for post-secondary success with students with Intellectual Disabilities.

Class Catalyst: Be the Change You Want to See in Your Classroom: This focused on making a change in the classroom through social-emotional learning and mindfulness. A strong student-teacher connection is a school's most valuable resource, and this can be done through social-emotional learning and mindfulness. I will be implementing a six-week trial using Class Catalyst which is a simple and effective way for teachers and students to improve their emotional competency.

Again, I would like to thank the TEPS committee and Dr. Hicks for allowing me to attend the conference. These three sessions are just examples of some of the items I will bring back to my classes. This conference allows me to enhance my teaching to have a positive impact on the students with intellectual disabilities at Clarence High School.

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