



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES  
STATEWIDE COORDINATOR FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION  
Room 1624 One Commerce Plaza • Albany, NY 12234  
[www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/](http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/)

Telephone (518) 402-3353 Fax: (518) 473-5769

May 2010

TO: District Superintendents  
Superintendents of Schools  
Presidents of Boards of Education  
Superintendents of State-Operated and State-Supported Schools  
Executive Directors of Approved Private Schools  
New York City Department of Education  
Organizations, Parents and Individuals Concerned with Special Education  
Commissioner's Advisory Panel for Special Education Services  
Regional Special Education Technical Assistance Support Centers  
Regional School Support Centers  
Impartial Hearing Officers  
Community Dispute Resolution Centers  
Other State Agencies

FROM: James P. DeLorenzo 

SUBJECT: Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) announces that it has established a State PBIS Technical Assistance Center (NYS PBIS TAC). The award for the NYS PBIS TAC has been made to the Capital Region BOCES.

PBIS is a research-based approach for schools and districts which is used to teach positive behavior to all students and offers additional behavioral support for students with or at risk of developing socially challenging behaviors. PBIS focuses on creating and sustaining primary (school-wide), secondary (classroom), and tertiary (individual) systems of support that improve results for all students by reducing problem behavior and increasing positive behavior. NYSED strongly encourages all schools to implement PBIS.

NYSED supports statewide implementation of the PBIS initiative with funds provided through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In the first few years of PBIS implementation in the State, NYSED provided an independent network of technical assistance providers (regional behavioral specialists) to schools implementing PBIS, but has now integrated PBIS support as part of its coordinated statewide special education technical assistance network, the Regional Special Education Technical Assistance Support Centers (RSE-TASC).



## Regional Technical Assistance on PBIS Implementation

With the goal of supporting systemic and sustained school improvement, 15 behavior specialists in the RSE-TASC network target technical assistance and professional development to school districts and other schools identified through a regional planning process. Through this process, priority support is given to school districts with significant discrepancies in their rates of suspension of students with disabilities, school districts identified by the State as needing assistance or intervention to improve results for students with disabilities and other schools with behavioral support needs as identified by NYSED.

In the development of this technical assistance system, NYSED expanded the number of behavioral specialists working with districts on PBIS and strengthened the PBIS initiative throughout the State by ensuring that districts with the greatest needs receive the support they need to teach positive behavior to all students and to provide additional systems of behavioral support for students with challenging behaviors. NYSED's technical assistance support to school districts to implement PBIS is at no-cost to school districts. For information on the RSE-TASC, see <http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/rsetasc/memo909.htm>.

## Role of the NYS PBIS TAC

The newly funded NYS PBIS TAC will develop a web-based resource to make current research-based information and materials on PBIS available statewide and will provide professional development and technical assistance to the RSE-TASC regional behavioral specialists to support their work with districts in implementing PBIS. NYSED will continue to maintain and expand a statewide PBIS Leadership Team, comprised of stakeholders from various agencies, school districts including the largest five districts, other NYSED offices and parents of students with disabilities. Beginning in the 2010-11 school year, the NYS PBIS TAC will conduct one-day regional PBIS technical assistance/professional development forums in each of the 10 RSE-TASC regions, in coordination with the RSE-TASC regional behavioral specialists, for invited staff from districts identified in the NYSED regional planning process and from additional districts implementing PBIS. Further information on the NYS PBIS TAC will be posted on NYSED's website.

## Other Technical Assistance Resources

The national Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, established by the Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education provides information on PBIS on its website at <http://www.pbis.org/>. The NYS behavior specialists and the PBIS TAC work closely with this federal technical assistance center.

In addition to NYSED's technical assistance support to school districts implementing PBIS, many of the Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) also offer PBIS support.

For more information on the State's PBIS initiative, contact the NYSED Office of Special Education at (518) 473-2878 or Noel Granger at [ngranger@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:ngranger@mail.nysed.gov). To ensure dissemination to appropriate individuals within a school district, I ask Superintendents to please share this memorandum with individuals such as Building Principals, Directors of Special Education, School Psychologists, Guidance Counselors, Directors of Pupil Personnel and Parent Teacher Associations.

\*Please note:

If you would like to receive notification of our publications via e-mail, register at [www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/register.htm](http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/register.htm).