

Short Term Solution to the Shortage of School Psychologists:  
Reallocating ETR Resources  
Summary of presentation to OAPSA December 2018

As a result of a severe shortage of school psychologists in Ohio, the Madison-Champaign Educational Service Center has been offering training since 2015 to train teachers to assist school psychologists as a short-term solution to the shortage of school psychologists across our state. A team from that ESC's School Psychologist Department including Maryanne Ryno Vrable, Monika Aune and Donna Stelzer, along with some of their trainees, presented to the Ohio Department of Education's Related Service Personnel Shortage Workgroup about that training program in August 2018. As a result of that presentation and to further discuss how to reallocate staff resources in preparing Evaluation Team Reports, a team from that ESC also presented at the Ohio Educational Service Center Association's (OESCA) Fall 2018 Conference and again at the Ohio Association of Pupil Service Administrators (OAPSA) Conference in December 2018. The three-day training targets how to complete observations, interview parents and staff, administer CBM's, gather academic data, and gather educational background information. Teachers and educators who become trained learn how to best support psychologists, thus allowing more time for the school psychologist to support districts in ways other than completing evaluations. By reallocating school psychologist and staffing resources, this training has come to the rescue of multiple districts which were unable to find school psychologists to hire.

There are some cautions that districts must implement when training teachers to assist school psychologists. These include:

- 1) There must be on site supervision from a licensed school psychologist that starts out weekly and can gradually fade.
- 2) Candidates who will support the school psychologist must meet Class B test requirements as defined by publishers.
- 3) Transcripts must include coursework in testing and assessment.
- 4) Candidates' qualifications should include: "Preferred to have knowledge of special education and forms."

The next steps for this innovative training include a team from that ESC turning the current training program into a systematic curriculum for training other school psychologists and special education directors to train their staff how to support school psychological services. Madison-Champaign ESC is planning a Train the Trainer program using that new curriculum beginning on August 1, 2019. We expect the demand to become a trainer may be so significant that a selection process is anticipated. For more information about this program, contact Donna Stelzer, Director of School Psychologists Department, at (937) 484 1557.

