April 8, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO:     City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Sherrill W. Parris, Senior Deputy State Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: Three-Day Intensive Autism Training Session at the MEGA Conference 2016

The Alabama State Department of Education, Special Education Services, will be providing a three-day Intensive Autism Training session at the MEGA Conference on July 11-15, 2016, in Mobile, Alabama. The dates for the session will be July 12-14, 2016, from 8:15 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Presenters from the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) will demonstrate skills related to identifying concepts of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), developing classroom schedules and card sort systems, demonstrating procedures for intensive teaching (discrete trial instruction), and basic requesting skills. During the session the participant becomes the student. Each day, attendees will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate learned skills. Due to the nature of the session, enrollment is limited to 45 participants.

Districts must:
- Be willing to pay participant’s MEGA Conference fees (registration, lodging, travel, meals, etc.).
- Agree to be a demonstration site for teachers in and beyond your district.
- Be willing to allow for observing and cooperating teachers to meet after the observation has concluded.
- Agree to choose a teacher that demonstrates the ability to successfully work with students with autism.

Participants must:
- Attend all three days of the training; no exceptions.
- Agree to be an observation site.
- Be willing to spend a week of their summer to attend the MEGA Conference.
- Be teachable.

Please complete the attached application and return it to Sheila Bolling via e-mail at sbolling@alsde.edu or fax it to (334) 242-9192 no later than April 30, 2016.

SWP/SB/SR

Attachment

cc: City and County Special Education Coordinators
    Mrs. Sherrill W. Parris
    Dr. Linda Felton-Smith
    Ms. Crystal Richardson
    Ms. Sheila Bolling

FY16-2053
Application for MEGA Conference July 11-15, 2016, Autism Training
District Commitment

LEA ___________________________ Date ___________________

Person Referring __________________ Position ___________________

Name of Applicant ____________________________

☐ LEA is willing to pay participant’s MEGA Conference fees (lodging, registration, travel, meals, etc.)

☐ LEA is willing to allow time for observing and cooperating teachers to meet and discuss the visit after the observation has concluded.

☐ LEA agrees to be a demonstration site for teachers in and beyond your district.

☐ LEA agrees to choose a teacher that demonstrates the ability to successfully work with students with autism.

__________________________________________
Signature of Special Education Coordinator

My signature confirms I agree to the above bulleted points.

A goal of the Alabama Autism Initiative is to improve services to students with autism in the educational setting. Teachers that choose to participate will not incur additional obligations. Observing teachers will not hinder the everyday flow of classroom operations. Observations will not start immediately upon completion of the training session at the MEGA Conference. The ALSDE will use an independent contractor to ensure the selected site is demonstration ready before observations begin.

Teacher Questionnaire
(Completed by Prospective Teacher)
Name ______________________  Years of Teaching Experience ____________________
Caseload # __________________  No. of Students with Autism on Caseload __________

1. Are you available to participate in summer training in Mobile, Alabama on July 11-15, 2016?

2. Are you willing to allow your classroom to be an observation site?

3. Are you currently working in a self-contained unit? If not, how are your students with autism served? (Inclusion with supports, co-taught setting etc.)

4. What programs, if any, are you currently using with your students with autism?

5. Do you use visual schedules?

6. How are you currently using visual supports?

7. Do you use communication notebooks with your students?

8. Is your classroom organized to allow for ease of transition between activities?

9. Are you willing to work with adult learners (observers)?

10. Are you willing to follow up (via e-mail, phone call) with teachers that may have questions?

Pictures of the applicant’s classroom must accompany the application, no exceptions.