

Professional Development Funds Available Through CalSTAT Technical Assistance!

Technical Assistance Criteria and Guidelines

For the past eight years, CalSTAT has utilized federally allocated grant funds to support training and technical assistance to the field of education. Through collaborative efforts, as well as using workshops, online conferences, meetings, and publications, CalSTAT brings research-based training to schools and families. Hundreds of technical assistance training days have been delivered to schools, districts, county offices of education, and Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA's) to foster greater collaboration between special education and general education at their sites.

What is TA?

Technical Assistance is defined as customized problem solving around a specific situation or issue in achieving improved educational results. Interventions prescribed to sites utilize TA methodology specific to the outcomes desired. TA can be customized training, facilitation, coaching, site-visits, information dissemination, and referral.

What type of TA requests will be supported?

Training topics communicate common messages to the field about selected topics. These common, or core messages, articulate critical research findings and essential components of effective application. All core messages have been identified by experts in the field and have been approved by the California Department of Education, Special Education Division.

CalSTAT, through grant funds, will support training and technical assistance requests that reflect any or all of the following core message areas listed below:

- Reading
- Positive Behavioral Supports
- Collaboration
- Family Partnerships
- Transition
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004 (IDEA '04)
- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
- Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtI²)

A full description of each core message area can be found at <http://www.calstat.org/cores.html>.

Priority is given to requests that:

- Combine efforts with general education, special education, and families to improve education
- Leverage other resources
- Have potential for regional impact
- Use research-based practices
- Distribute SPDG resources across California

Why request TA?

While every situation and each school is unique, TA is often needed in order to accomplish the following:

- Help develop programs and services that will improve academic achievement for all students.
- Implement research-based collaborative practices in literacy, behavior and transition practices that are designed to ensure school-wide success.
- Help build effective relationships among students, their families, and the school community.
- Implement early intervention and prevention designed to reduce the need for costly special education services and, by doing so, reduce program cost over time.
- Develop special education teacher preparation programs at universities or district intern programs.

Who can request TA?

TA can be requested by representatives from the following:

- Schools, education agencies, and educational organizations
- Parent organizations

How many TA days can a Local Education Agency (LEA) receive?

If an LEA qualifies to receive TA funds, they can receive a maximum of ten TA days per training, and a yearly maximum of 20 TA days. Please keep in mind that Technical Assistance funds are not intended to cover the entire cost of the presenters or trainers, and the requesting agency is expected to leverage other resources they may have available to cover these expenses.

Provide the following information via telephone, email, or fax when making a TA request:

1. Briefly describe your request, listing the anticipated outcomes that reference one or more of the core messages noted above.
2. List the individuals participating in or receiving the TA (e.g., representation from educators, agencies, administrators, and parents).
3. Describe the potential for regional impact.
4. Identify data collection and tracking procedures that may be relevant to this TA request.
5. Include the name(s) and contact information of the consultant(s)—if you have anyone in mind—with whom you wish to work.
6. Include the name and contact information of the entity functioning as the fiscal agent.

If you have further questions regarding TA, please contact Shannon Paymal at (707) 953-0863 or shannon.paymal@calstat.org

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