

State of Nevada Autism Task Force  
Education Subcommittee  
\*Recommendations for Public School Personnel/Training\*  
April 2008

Findings:

- Shortage of teachers with autism endorsements
- Difficulty in retaining teachers and paraprofessionals in the classroom
- Teachers report being burdened by paperwork, especially high with students who have autism
- Rural schools have difficulty providing specific training for teachers and paraprofessionals who serve students with autism
- Teachers report that case loads/class sizes are too high to effectively meet the needs of the students with autism
- Speech/Language Pathologists report being overburdened to meet the paperwork demands and intensity of services for students with autism
- Occupational Therapists do not have a case load cap. This puts an undue burden on them when serving students with autism
- Many public school employees do not know how to employ positive behavior supports in general education settings
- Individuals with autism are served in a variety of school settings: general education classrooms, resource rooms, and self-contained classrooms
- Paraprofessionals need additional training to support students with autism

Recommendations

- Offer school districts incentives for licensed staff and support staff to get additional training specific to autism
  - State support two day lecture on autism-background on autism and Discrete Trial Teaching techniques
  - State support Hands-on training for Discrete Trial Teaching
- Lower case load and class size so teachers can meet the paperwork demands- students with autism are in every program

Type of Program	Class Size/Case Load	w/Assistant
○ Resource	10/12	12
○ Autism	4/6	6
○ ECSE/Specialized	8/10	10
○ Learning Disabilities	10/12	12
○ Moderately MR	8/10	10
○ Severe MR	4/6	6
- State support online training for teachers and paraprofessionals working with students who have autism
- State support colleges to offer online or distance education college courses that meet the endorsement requirements for teachers
- State support training positive behavior supports in the rural districts

- Lower case loads for Speech/Language Therapists who support students with autism, 30
- Identify case loads for Occupational Therapists, 30

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