

TMCSEA

Tazewell-Mason Counties
Special Education Association

Tazewell-Mason Counties Special Education Association is an Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) Continuing Education Sponsor and Illinois State Board of Education Approved Professional Development Provider.

Professional Development activities are provided through IDEA Inservice grant money at no cost to participants who are educators or parents in the Tazewell-Mason Counties Special Education Association member districts.

Amber Ealey
Program Coordinator
aealey@tmcsea.org

Phone: 309-347-5164

Fax: 309-346-0440

Website: TMCSEA.org

TMCSEA Administrative Office
300 Cedar Street, Pekin, IL 61554 (309)347-5164

2025-2026 Professional Development

TMCSEA is excited to bring these professional development opportunities to our area. All speakers come to us in high regard and reflect the stated needs of the member districts. We would like to extend an invitation to staff and parents in our member districts to attend a training listed. For a complete listing of TMCSEA's professional development, please visit our website
TMCSEA.org

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

In addition to the professional development opportunities listed, inservices/staff development activities are offered in a variety of areas including: Assistive Technology, Autism, CPI, Low Incidence Special Education, OT/PT, Parents, Psychologist, Social Worker, SLP, and Transition. Furthermore, TMCSEA offers smaller event inservices to targeted staff in more specialized topic areas. It is our goal to provide high quality resources as well as build capacity in our member districts.

Administrative/Leadership

Conflict Prevention and Resolution Through IEP Meeting Facilitation

The class is designed to teach a process to enable teams to collaborate effectively while preventing and managing conflict. This ensures that the meeting content and process stays focused on the needs of the student. Participants practice facilitation tools and techniques in actual simulations where trainers provide feedback and coaching in a safe learning environment. This way facilitators are prepared to implement the skills they've just learned the very next day.

*Attendance on both August 6th and 7th is required for full credit. *

8/6/25 & 8/7/25 Rogers Academy 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Transition

Ready, Set, PUNS! Transition with a Smile!

Don't come to this workshop with a frown—come ready to learn and leave empowered!

Join us to explore all things Transition. You'll dive into the "alphabet soup" of transition planning—from PUNS to employment—and discover who can help families navigate important benefits and services.

Whether you're a brand new teacher or well-seasoned teacher, this workshop is for anyone looking to deepen their understanding of the transition process and learn about local resources that support students as they prepare to exit high school.

9/25/2025 East Peoria Civic Complex 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Administrative/Legal

Special Education Update: Legally-Compliant IEP Team Decisions

With a practical and fresh approach, this session will use real-life discussions about matters that affect the creation of legally-compliant IEPs, including how special education is changing in the 2020s. By using case law from around the U.S., filtered through the lens of an experienced special education attorney (Brandon K. Wright), you will walk away with a renewed clarity about your legal obligations – and the confidence to keep focused on ensuring your district's actions are legal, efficient, and effective!

9/26/2025 East Peoria Civic Complex 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM

IEP Writing

Putting the Pieces Together: Building Better IEP's from PLAAFP to Progress Monitoring

Take a deep dive into high-quality IEP goal writing in this workshop. Participants will learn how to develop comprehensive Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional/Developmental Performance (PLAAFP) sections, to write standards-aligned SMART goals, and to structure progress monitoring.

The training will include opportunities for practice, collaboration, and discussion. Participants are encouraged to review the current sources of student data that inform their IEP writing in preparation for our session.

10/28/2025 Schramm Educational Center 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Behavior

Restorative Practices: Cultivating Positive Environments and Cultures

The restorative practice framework is a systematic approach that focuses on building and maintaining positive relationships, repairing harm caused by conflicts or misconduct, promoting accountability, and fostering a sense of community and well-being. Restorative practices are rooted in restorative justice principles and aim to create a culture of empathy, respect, and collaboration within communities, organizations, and institutions.

Participants will:

- Gain understanding of a comprehensive and structured approach to promoting positive relationships, resolving conflicts, and creating a culture of empathy, accountability, and collaboration within communities and organizations.
- Learn how the restorative practice framework supports the development of a restorative and supportive environment that fosters healing, growth, and positive transformation.

Participation on all 3 days is required

08/15/2025	Rogers Academy	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
09/19/2025	Rogers Academy	1:00 PM - 2:50 PM
10/24/2025	Rogers Academy	1:00 PM - 2:50 PM

Communication

Gestalt Language Processing with Marge Blanc

This three-session course examines the role of echolalia in language development, with a focus on gestalt language processing—a developmental path in which individuals begin by using large, meaningful chunks of language ("gestalts") before progressing to self-generated grammar. The course compares this process in neurotypical and autistic children, reviewing research on the communicative functions of echolalia and emphasizing how our understanding has evolved.

The course structure allows participants to internalize foundational concepts between Sessions 1 and 2, and then either collect and share a language sample for discussion in Session 3 or observe the scoring of a sample to deepen their understanding. It also provides practical strategies for supporting autistic children through the stages of gestalt language development, including a protocol for assessing spontaneous language, identifying developmental stages, and setting appropriate language goals.

Participation on all 3 days is required

09/17/2025	Virtual	12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
09/24/2025	Virtual	12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
12/03/2025	Virtual	12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Autism

Challenging Behavior Management and Preventing Problem Behaviors by Supporting Regulation

This workshop reframes our understanding of challenging behaviors by examining how regulation ability influences an individual's capacity to navigate their day, particularly when difficulties are encountered. Factors influencing and means of supporting regulation are explored from both a first-person autistic perspective, as well as developmental perspective.

11/06/2025

Virtual

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Autism

Introduction to the SCERTS Model

This workshop will introduce the SCERTS® (Social Communication, Emotional Regulation, Transactional Support) model, a comprehensive, multidisciplinary educational approach designed for autistic learners and learners with social emotional learning differences. The day will begin with an introduction of the neuro-developmental foundation of SCERTS, a discussion of the empirical evidence, and the core domains. Next, the content will shift to writing outcomes and identifying the key role of the interactive partners in providing support for learners who are pre-symbolic communicators, at emerging language stages (using speech or multimodal forms of language), and at conversational levels.

11/07/2025

Virtual

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Transition

Job Coach Training for the Paraprofessional

Participants of this training will follow online curriculum from the University of Wisconsin's Transition Improvement Grant (TIG). After reviewing the material, we will meet every other week to discuss the information presented and the weekly activities. Participants in this training should expect to walk away understanding the roles of the job coach, as well as strategies for communication, building relationships, how to handle behavior on the job, and prompting and fading. Leaving this training you should feel even more confident in working on the job with students.

*Attendance on All Training Dates is Required *

09/08/2025

Google Meet

2:00PM - 3:00 PM

09/18/2025

Rogers Academy

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

10/02/2025

Rogers Academy

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

10/16/2025

Rogers Academy

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

10/29/2025

Rogers Academy

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

11/13/2025

Rogers Academy

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Intervention

Navigating School Avoidance, Refusal and Anxiety

This training will provide a clear understanding of school anxiety, refusal, and avoidance—what they look like in students and how they impact school functioning. We'll explore the different types of school refusal and share practical, collaborative strategies for addressing each within the classroom and broader school environment. Educators will learn how to partner with families to implement proactive supports that can reduce escalation and prevent chronic avoidance. We'll also discuss how parenting styles can influence student behavior, and introduce our Parent Coaching Model (Model-Assist-Guide-Empower) as a tool for enhancing family-school collaboration. The session will conclude with a preview of our new book, offering evidence-based strategies and real-world tools to support students struggling with school-related anxiety.

11/19/2025

Rogers Academy

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Autism

Evidence-Based Practices in Autism Spectrum Disorders

This day-long presentation is an overview of the evidence-based practices based on the research literature and the reports of the National Professional Development Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders and the National Autism Center. The presentation includes a summary of the research, an overview of each strategy and examples of implementation of the strategy. Strategies for evaluating claims of effectiveness of interventions are also discussed as well as ways that the strategies can be implemented in a school environment.

11/20/2025

Virtual

8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Thank You!



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Rogers Academy