

Illinois Masonic Student Assistance Program

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Training Program Guide

Updated: November 13th, 2022

Course Name: Assessing Student Threats: Implementing the Salem-Keizer System

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: Assessing Student Threats: Implementing the Salem Keizer System is a 2-day hands-on, interactive, lab type training that will allow your staff and administration to implement a threat assessment system that follows the recommendations of the Safe Schools Initiative and the prescriptive outline provided by the FBI. This training will cover an introduction to the basic concepts of threat assessment process for schools and analyze case studies. Districts are strongly encouraged to bring a team to this training.

Course Name: Basic Restorative Practices & Utilizing Circles Effectively

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: New thinking, new practice, new result...This workshop is a practical guide for educators interested in implementing restorative practices, an approach that proactively builds positive school communities while dramatically reducing discipline referrals, suspensions, and expulsions. We will discuss the restorative practices continuum, implementation guidelines, and how and why the processes work. The focus will be on affective language, affective questions, small impromptu conferences, and using circles effectively. This will be a highly engaging workshop as we work together in a circle to show how restorative practices promote strong interpersonal relationships and community building and provide students with meaningful opportunities to be accountable for their actions and responsible for helping to make their school a safe and nurturing place.

Course Name: Believe...Inspire...Lead: Supporting Positive Culture & Teams

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: How is your school culture? Are you a BELIEVER? In this full day workshop, participants will assess and examine how their role impacts school culture and teaming while being INSPIRED to LEAD. This engaging session will provide strategies to assess various personalities, analyze feedback and understand the faces of resistance. Targeted audience: K-12 Educators, Administrators, Paraprofessionals, School Support Related Personnel

Course Name: Co-Teaching

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: Two professionals are better than one! Join us in learning about how to implement a co-teaching model that benefits students of all abilities by pairing a general education teacher with a special education teacher. With inclusion on the rise, teachers are sharing classrooms more than ever and becoming an effective co-teaching partner is a teaching essential. With the onset of a new school year right around the corner, meanwhile, it's imperative to begin devising and building positive co-teaching strategies.

Course Name: Depression and Suicide: Implementing a Social & Emotional System of Support AA #1374

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: Suicide is a serious and growing problem among children and adolescents. Each year, thousands of young people commit suicide. The majority of children and adolescents who attempt suicide have a significant mental health disorder, usually depression. Depression and suicidal feelings are treatable mental disorders. Teachers and administrators should always err on the side of caution and safety. Come join us to learn more about suicide and depression, ways to identify it, how to help, and develop a plan to help guide your students and staff through depression, suicide, and SEL.

Course Name: Effective Body Language and Communication in the Classroom

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: You only have 30 seconds to make a first impression! Communication within the classroom is important in order for students to learn effectively. Positive body language in a classroom setting also has the ability to motivate, inspire and engage. It can not only give you the confidence you need to teach but can also reassure your students that you actually know what you're talking about. Whether you are working in the classroom or in the office this training will provide you with excellent ways to engage your students and co-workers in a dynamic way.

Course Name: Effective Questioning Techniques

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: Statistics show the average teacher asks between 300-400 questions per day. Utilizing effective questioning is a key aspect of the teaching and learning process, as the kinds of questions we ask determine the level of thinking we develop. It is also a key tool in assessment when checking for pupil understanding and keeping them engaged. To have the desired effect, these questions need to be well-considered and challenging. Utilizing effective questioning in the classroom creates opportunities for students to analyze their own thinking, is crucial to opening conversations, inspires deeper intellectual thought, and promotes student-to-student interaction.

Course Name: Google Trainings

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: The following Google Sessions are offered in 90-minute segments virtually. Two or three topics/sessions can be combined into one workshop Google Classroom 1.0; Google Classroom 2.0; Advanced Google Classroom: Taking it to the Next Level; Back to the Basics: Diving Into Digital Strategies with Google Docs, Slides & Rubrics; Google for Grading and Assessments; Community Building and Involvement using Ed Tech; Jamming with Jamboard; Building Digital Communities in Early Elementary; Easy Grading: Using Google Forms to create assessment & assignments; Creating Effective Online Learning Environments Using Virtual Meeting Platforms

Course Name: I'm a Paraprofessional, What's Your SUPERPOWER

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: Paraprofessionals assigned to support students in the general education classroom have one of the most important jobs in schools today. Whether they serve as one-to-one support for specific students or as overall classroom assistants, they have a critical role in making inclusion effective for their students. This strategy-packed workshop will provide paraprofessionals with practical, easy-to-integrate, proven techniques for making inclusion successful. A wealth of ideas will be presented that will help all of your students be more productive in the content area. The workshop focus will be on introducing practical strategies that have been proven successful when working with students with special needs in inclusive or general education classrooms.

Course Name: Leadership Lessons Learned from Gettysburg AA #3675

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: For three tumultuous days in 1863, Gettysburg was the backdrop for one of the Civil War's most dynamic encounters. Decisions made, opportunities missed, passions sparked, and conversations avoided changed the course of our country. During this administrator academy we will look at Gettysburg's leaders, lessons, and legacy with a clear, contemporary purpose: to set the stage for you to prepare for your greatest challenges.

Course Name: The Power of Teamwork - Catch the Energy, Release the Potential

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: The most effective teamwork happens when individual team members harmonize their efforts and work towards a common goal. Come join us and learn how teamwork and trust go hand in hand. We will discuss how communication and positive relationships build collaboration within a group to help solve difficult problems. We will also dive into the power teams have when they brainstorm and work together to develop solutions and make work an enjoyable experience.

Course Name: One Size Does Not Fit All - Differentiating Instruction at the Elementary Level

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: How is it possible for teachers to divide their limited time, resources, and efforts to effectively instruct all of their students? Although much has changed in schools over the past few years, the power of differentiated instruction has remained the same. There is no secret formula or recipe that works for all learners at all times. With that in mind, many differentiated instructional strategies will be shared in this session as well as insightful guidance on what to differentiate, how to differentiate, and how to bring differentiation into your classroom.

Course Name: Remote Learning for Paraprofessionals

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: Paraprofessionals, are you looking for ways to help during remote learning that will assist teachers, encourage, and nurture students, and help your community adjust to this new way of learning? THIS WORKSHOP IS FOR YOU! We will also be giving insight into personal self-care and changes in the role of the paraprofessional. Topics that will be covered during this training include the following: * Responsibilities of the Paraprofessional * Assisting Teachers * Empowering Students * Tracking Progress * Other possible duties * Self-Care

Course Name: The Resilient Teacher: Burnout Prevention & Self Care

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: There's a lot of talk about the social-emotional needs of students. But as educators, are we taking care of ourselves? Or are we just counting down to the next holiday or summer break? Are we recognizing and managing our own emotions? We all have challenges and opportunities. Teachers will hear the research behind taking care of themselves and how this benefits the classroom, as well as practical ways to relieve stress. It's time to focus on you!

Course Name: RTI (Response to Intervention)

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: Across the Grade Levels RTI is the practice of providing high quality instruction/interventions to students' needs over a period of time and then utilizing the level of performance to make important educational decisions to guide their instruction. During this presentation we will dive into the process and break down the 3 Tiers of instruction. We will provide lesson plan application and what it could look like at the elementary level, the junior high level, and at the high school level while discussing differentiation and scaffolding techniques. (This presentation is maximized when presented at the district level)

Course Name: RTI (Response to Intervention) at the Secondary Level

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: So how does RTI fit into a Secondary Education Model? Over the past decade, Response to Intervention (RTI) has seen widespread use in schools as an effective way to promote student learning. The strategies are multi-tiered approaches to identify and address the learning needs of students. The interventions are a program and/or set of steps to help kids improve at things they struggle with. They are also designed so that you and the school can track your child's progress. Come discover HOW you can implement a highly- successful RTI program into your high school!

Course Name: Second Chance Readers

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: “Second-chance readers” are those who somehow, for multiple reasons, have fallen through the cracks of our schools. Don’t ever assume that these struggling readers don’t unlock the mystery of reading. Even when they have “attitude”, don’t misread that as lack of interest. It’s often just the opposite. They doubt their own abilities and carry humiliation, embarrassment and yes, anger because they feel like failures. Just know, they have a hidden urge to read like everyone else. Come learn about strategies to engage these readers.

Course Name: SEL for Students in a Remote World

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: How can we adapt our instruction to support our students' social/emotional well-being remote learning? Come join us for this dynamic training as you learn how to improve/maintain relationships with students during remote learning. We will also address taking care of ourselves during this time because in order to take care of others we must begin by taking care of ourselves.

Course Name: Stressed Brains Can’t Learn

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: This training will provide the basic understanding of how trauma alters the brain and impacts learning in the classroom. Many classroom strategies will be shared to help support these struggling students. We highly encourage schools to bring teams that consist of administrators, guidance counselors, social workers, teachers, and paraprofessionals.

Course Name: Teaching Children of Poverty

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: Children from poverty have unique learning, social and behavior differences. We know the human brain is just as vulnerable to negative factors as it is receptive to positive factors; therefore, the environmental and sometimes traumatic factors for children of poverty greatly affect how these children react to the world. Come and gain some valuable concrete ways to help your students living in poverty.

Course Name: The Trauma Informed Paraprofessional

Provider: Excel Educational Consulting

Description: This training will provide a basic understanding to paraprofessionals on how trauma alters the brain and impacts learning in the school setting. Many strategies will be shared to help support these struggling students. As a paraprofessional you work with students in a variety of settings from the playground to the classroom and on the school bus. When you have a deeper understanding of their adverse experiences you can help these students advance their academic achievement.

Course Name: Safe Schools- A School Wide Approach to Building a Caring Community: Bully Prevention, Conflict Management, and Violence Prevention

Provider: National Masonic Foundation

Description: This workshop was designed to teach concrete, immediate, and experiential prevention and intervention skills that deal with the issues of conflict, anger, abuse, and bullying. Educators will learn what triggers conflict and anger; examine various conflict styles; explore competition as a possible root of conflict. This workshop offers concrete information on appropriate limits and boundaries; and makes clear the difference between assertive and aggressive behavior. Schools should attend this training after their first year of SAP implementation.

Course Name: MMSAP Booster Training- Action Planning and Problem Solving

Provider: National Masonic Foundation

Description: This one-day workshop is designed for veterans of MMSAP. The Booster Training focuses on the essential ingredients for successful program implementation and longevity, and also addresses concerns and creates solutions via a problem-solving design. Core Teams build and clarify their missions and purpose. The training is highly experiential and is designed to allow participants to “practice what the preach.” The MMSAP Booster maintains our relationship with veteran teams and allows for in-depth problem solving. This training is recommended for Core Teams after their first or second year of operation.

Course Name: Leveraging Cultural Differences to Promote Diversity and Equity

Provider: National Masonic Foundation

Description: By acknowledging and valuing diverse cultural backgrounds, educators can devise instructional lessons and activities that contextualize critical content and skills within students' everyday lives. Through this process, educators and students learn more about one another in safe, respectful environments that promote pro-social behavior, reduce bullying, spark intrinsic motivation, increase home-school connection, and close opportunity gaps through personalized learning. This session offers strategies school leaders and teachers can transfer immediately into their buildings and classrooms to reach and engage learners of all cultures, ages, and abilities.

Course Name: Depression and Suicide Prevention Training

Provider: National Masonic Foundation

Description: Educators attending this powerful, full-day seminar will learn and discuss the most up to date information on child/adolescent depression and suicide. Participants will learn about, explore and plan, proven, effective depression/suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention strategies that they can bring back to their individual schools and districts. Participants will examine the primary causes and signs of Childhood/Adolescent depression, including those that are less apparent or "masked". Evidence-based strategies for individual counseling and mentoring, and classroom and school accommodations will be discussed. Educators in attendance will practice a strength-based intervention model, involving the utilization of Developmental Assets. The instructors will guide educators in developing school-wide social/emotional learning strategies. All participants will be given time and direction in establishing their own action planning, based upon individual needs assessments in their school.

Course Name: Masonic Youth Group Adult Leadership Training

Provider: National Masonic Foundation

Description: This meaningful and engaging program is designed for Masonic Youth Group Adult leaders. Through activity, dialogue, research, and reflection, we will explore in depth the challenges that adolescents face every day. We will also provide a focus on the skills and practices of being a servant leader. All participants will leave with a plan of action to best serve their Masonic Youth Group as well as an early intervention action plan for children that they are concerned about.

Course Name: Masonic Youth Group Leadership Development Program

Provider: National Masonic Foundation

Description: This fun and engaging program is designed for the young leaders who are a part of Masonic Youth Groups. Through activity and youth-driven dialogue, we will look at the challenges that adolescents face every day, what it truly means to be a leader, and the skills needed for success as an organization and as individuals.

Course Name: Unity Day for High School and Middle School

Provider: National Masonic Foundation

Description: Unity Day focuses on the very sensitive issues of bullying, racism, sexism, alcohol and drug use, and mental health concerns. Our program asks schools to identify 100 students and 10 staff who are willing to work on these critically important issues. Each school will select a diverse group of students from different groups within the school to break down the walls of stereotypes and labels and create a unified community. We ask administration to select staff and students who want to address the real problems students face in a supportive yearlong process. Unity Day is much more than a one-day commitment. Staff and students must commit to ongoing support group meetings to implement the plans created at Unity Day. Throughout our Unity Day program we build connection, school bonding and genuine caring. We find that we are much more alike than we are different. We also come to a place where we respect and celebrate our differences. Throughout the day students and staff work in large and small group settings to teach each other and address the deepest concerns in their school. We learn we are not alone. We create a unified community. Students and staff leave Unity Day with a specific and concrete plan of action on how they will help administration address these concerns in their school.

Course Name: Unity Day for Elementary School

Provider: National Masonic Foundation

Description: Respect, responsibility and healthy relationships are key skills for succeeding academically and feeling connected at school. During this experiential day, students will participate in fun, developmentally appropriate and meaningful activities with our facilitators. Connections will be made directly back to the classroom and students will have the opportunity to immediately practice the lessons they learn. Agenda to be agreed upon by facilitators and school personnel.

Course Name: Unity Day Parent Program

Provider: National Masonic Foundation

Description: This highly interactive parent presentation will emphasize whole child education and the relationship between Social Emotional learning and academic success. Parents will engage in deep dialogue as well as engaging community building activities that facilitate the growth of children, families, and schools. They will gain useful take home techniques to increase their child's happiness, improve communication skills and build a closer family relationship. The "whole child education" model will be introduced, and strategies will be explored on how to utilize this technique at home. The program will emphasize the relationship between Social Emotional Learning and academic success. Finally, parents will hear, and be heard, as facilitators guide large group discussion in a welcoming environment. Agenda to be agreed upon by facilitators and school personnel.

Course Name: Understanding and Teaching Children Affected by Poverty

Provider: National Masonic Foundation

Description: This training is designed for educators who wish to build a deeper understanding of the needs of children and families affected by poverty. Poverty is not merely a financial situation, but also includes emotional, mental, spiritual, and physical aspects. We will examine the critical role that support systems, resources, relationships, and role models play as intervening factors. The key beliefs this training will work from are poverty is relative, poverty is not exclusive to any group of people, socio-economic status is a continuum and not a clear-cut distinction, and there is a difference between generational and situation poverty. Participants will explore and practice research-based strategies to assist children affected by poverty.

Course Name: The Art of Communication: Body Language and Other Essential Skills

Provider: National Masonic Foundation

Description: Everyone believes they know how to communicate effectively. Unfortunately, we are incorrect. Even the best communicators fail to connect with their audience most of the time. Working with peers in a human laboratory, our talents come alive, versus reading the concepts from the written page. The work of effective communication is exhausting, but the rewards of acquiring skills last a lifetime. We become better educators, better co-workers, and better people. Why improve as communicators? It is crucial to improve the quality of our lives, and the lives of those around us.

Course Name: Courage to Lead: Integrity, Authenticity, and Vulnerability

Provider: National Masonic Foundation

Description: We lead by example. Our youth and young adults are in need of role models who exemplify courage, integrity, authenticity, and vulnerability. Messages of fear and hate become attractive to youth who are disenfranchised, disconnected, afraid, and emotional wounded. We will explain the research and practices that invites us to be courageous leaders and role models. We will focus on experiences and deep dialogue that allow us to model and invite youth to experience the strength of integrity, authenticity, and vulnerability. Leadership, like all human activity, comes from self and social awareness into those we serve. We seek to build meaningful and trusting relationships. Servant leadership comes from integrity, authenticity, and vulnerability. In every interaction, our ability to connect depends more and more on time honored Social Emotional Learning skills. We must be willing to be open to the service of raising healthy, contributing members to society.

Course Name: Mental Health and Trauma Informed Care

Provider: National Masonic Foundation

Description: This program is designed to help educators become more effective in recognizing and understanding mental health concerns present in their students. We will explore how learning is impacted for children who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Trauma and Toxic Stress. Through engagement, participation in experiences, and close examination to our views regarding mental health, participants will define strategies and develop tools to create a climate of acceptance, understanding, and change for our students who are dealing with trauma and mental health concerns.