



Virginia Department of Education Training & Technical Assistance Center  
George Mason University

# Resource Spotlight

A resource brief to support virtual professional learning for division partner staff and families

## Novice Special Educator and Paraprofessional Resources

- [Core Competencies for Paraeducators](#) - Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) special education paraeducator core competencies for providing effective K-12 support to students with disabilities.
- [Supporting and Responding to Students' Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Needs](#) - National Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) practical summary of evidence-based, proactive, and responsive classroom behavior and intervention strategies for teachers.
- [Effective Classroom Systems](#) - Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports (VTSS) resources and tools to promote a sustained focus on effective classroom practices.
- [Lesson Plan: Co-Creating Classroom Expectations with Students \(Elementary Schools\)](#) - National Center on PBIS lesson plan for partnering with elementary students to create classroom expectations.
- [Facilitating Collaborative IEP Meetings](#) - VDOE TTAC at GMU resource to guide special educators through the process of organizing and facilitating an IEP meeting.

## High Leverage Practice (HLP)

- [High Leverage Practice Crosswalks for Prosocial Behavior, Literacy, Mathematics and Transition](#) - VDOE TTAC at GMU crosswalks linking professional learning to HLPs for personalized professional learning and classroom application.
- [Cognitive Functioning and Psychological Processing Guide with HLPs](#) - VDOE TTAC at GMU instructional strategies resource to help educators better understand how a student's disability affects their learning and behavior.
- [Elementary and Secondary HLP 7 Checklists - Establishing a Consistent, Organized and Responsive Learning Environment](#) - VDOE TTAC at GMU checklists to guide teachers through steps for creating an organized and responsive learning environment where all students thrive.
- [HLP 7 Consistent, Organized and Respectful Learning Environment Video](#) - CEC video that demonstrates components of HLP 7 through exemplars from general and special education teachers.

## Family Supports

- [The Virginia Family's Guide to Special Education](#) - VDOE guide about the special education process.
- [Family Communication Checklist](#) - VDOE TTAC at GMU considerations checklist for enhancing teacher-family communication.
- [A 4-Week Plan to a Great Start](#) - Understood first month of school plan with daily tips for families to support a positive start to the school year.

## Professional Learning Opportunities

- [HLP 7: Setting the Stage for Learning-Consistent, Organized & Respectful Learning Environments](#) - Virtual Virginia GMU TTAC session with resources, videos, and step-by-step guides for implementation.
- [Classroom Behavior Management: Key Concepts and Foundational Practices](#) - IRIS Center elementary and secondary modules on effective classroom management.

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