Implementation of PEERS®
(Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills)
at a Secondary Level
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What is PEERS®?
• The PEERS® Curriculum for School-Based Evidence-Based Professionals is a secondary social skills curriculum developed by Dr. Elizabeth Laugeson of UCLA
• The scripted manual is designed to teach students to make and keep friends using ecologically valid instruction
• A variety of techniques are used to instruct. Some include didactic lessons, role-play, perspective-taking questions and behavior rehearsal, alongside of coaching support

Implementation
• Dr. Elizabeth Laugeson came to Delaware and trained over 50 educators to implement PEERS®
• Facilitators included teachers, psychologists, speech-therapists and building administrators
• Cohort 1 received follow-up support from the Delaware Positive Behavior Support Instructional Coach on fidelity of implementation, data collection and any curricular technical assistance
• Cohort 1 consisted of 9 groups across 5 school districts

Data Collection
• Pre and Post data were collected for each participant
• A variety of measures were initially used, but our grant now focuses on three: 1. TAASK (Test of Adolescent Skills Knowledge) - Included in the PEERS® curriculum - Assesses social skill knowledge of teens 2. Teacher Rating Scale - Created by the University of Delaware - Assesses applied knowledge of the skills taught 3. Facilitator Fidelity of Implementation - Instructional Coach uses the curriculum to ensure that each scripted lesson component is taught as the curriculum intends

Results

Conclusions
• Fidelity of Implementation was high and quickly achieved
• Students increased their social knowledge
• Most teachers found increases in social skills
• Group 3 had a higher level of student growth because parent involvement was higher
• The focus of Cohort 2 will be increasing parent involvement by holding district information sessions and by using the Parent Information Center (PIC) of Delaware

Building Capacity
• Participating school districts are expanding PEERS® to all secondary buildings
• Additional groups that will receive coaching support have been added for the 2015-2016 school year
• Networking sessions are planned to share strategies for addressing scheduling and selection barriers, in addition to celebrating successes
• Our goal is to have all school districts in Delaware using the PEERS® curriculum

References

Contact Information
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