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# Illinois Intervener Training Program Overview

The Illinois Intervener Training Program is a free, hybrid (online and in-class coaching) program designed to:

* Train paraprofessionals already assigned to work with students, age 3-19 years, who are on the Project Reach Child Count, and
* Support successful trainees (intervener candidates) through the online portfolio process so that they can obtain the national credential, and then apply for the Illinois Deaf-Blind Intervener approval.

The program requires that the intervener candidate’s administration, school colleagues, and student’s family support and consent to the training and the creation of a credentialing portfolio, in writing. Both the training and the portfolio will require that photographs and video be taken of the focus student and intervener working together. As appropriate, student consent will also be acquired.

In return, Project Reach will not charge for the any of training services. The training includes:

* An online course of study: The study will use the *Open Hands, Open Access (OHOA) Deaf-Blind Intervener Learning Modules.* The specific modules selected will vary by candidate/focus student, but must be broad enough to provide overall content on DeafBlindness and expose intervener candidates to the all knowledge and skill expectations contained in the Council for Exceptional Children’s (CEC) standards. Assignments will create items the intervener candidate may want to use in their future portfolio.
* Meetings with Project Reach coach: Project Reach Illinois DeafBlind Services will provide meetings (face to face and distance) with the candidate, as well as coaching and consultation in the intervener candidate’s classroom (a minimum of three observations to document skill acquisition and alignment with CEC standards).
* Portfolio support from Project Reach: When training is completed, Project Reach will mentor the intervener candidates and they develop an online portfolio using the National Intervener Certification E-Portfolio System. Opening a portfolio account currently costs $75. The portfolio system is open to the candidate for one year, but with mentoring it is anticipated that candidates can complete a portfolio within four to six months because some artifacts have already been collected during training.
* Support during approval: After certification is obtained, Project Reach will help intervener candidates complete the Illinois State Board of Education Intervener approval process. ONCE APPROVED, THEY CAN PROVIDE INTERVENTION AS A RELATED SERVICE IN ILLINOIS. THE ENTIRE PROCESS CAN TAKE 18 – 24 MONTHS.

Please see the sample Training Syllabus below.

Project Reach Intervener Candidate Sample Training Program Syllabus.

Flex is allowed for months with holiday/vacation weeks/

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| MONTH | ONLINE  CONTENT | MEETINGS | NICE PORTFOLIO | IL APPROVAL | OTHER |
| 1 | OHOA Welcome and OrientationModule 1: Overview of Deaf-Blindness and Instructional Strategies | Introductory online meeting: Discuss the modules, answer overall questions  BASELINE OBSERVATION VISIT | Discuss CEC Standards  File observation report to consider including in portfolio | NA | OHOA Module host and coach may not be the same person, but the two people will be in close communication. DURING ALL MODULES, FILE HOMEWORK PRODUCTS TO CONSIDER INCLUDING IN PORTFOLIO |
| 2 | Module 2: The Sensory System, The Brain, and Learning  Module 3: The Role of Interveners in Educational Settings | Coach/Mentor available by phone/web between face-to-face visits | NA | NA |  |
| 3 | Module 4: Building Trusted Relationships and Positive Self-Image |  | NA | NA |  |
| 4 | Module 7: Emergent Communication |  | NA | NA |  |
| 5 | Fifth Module – Emergent Communication | MIDPOINT OBSERVATION VISIT | File observation report to consider including in portfolio | NA |  |
| 6 | Module 26: Touch for Connection and Communication  Module 9: Routines |  | NA | NA |  |
| 7 | Module 13: Calendars  Module 21: Sexuality | Coach/Mentor available by phone/web between face-to-face visits | NA | NA |  |
| 8 | Module 14: Introduction to Orientation and Mobility |  | NA | NA |  |
| 9 | CHOOSE ONE: Behavior (23) or Social Skills and Peer Relationships (17) |  | Discuss NICE Process | NA |  |
| 10 | CHOOSE ONE: Introduction to Sign Language and Braille (22), or Maximizing Vision and Hearing (12) |  |  | NA |  |
| 11 | CHOOSE ONE: Self-Determination (16) , or Transition to Adulthood (24) | FINAL OBSERVATION VIST | File observation report to consider including in portfolio | NA |  |
| 12 | Module 18: Collaborative Teaming  OHOA Module catch up, if needed |  | Consider applying for NICE, completing NICE Modules and paperwork | NA |  |
| 13 | Module 20: Values, Ethics, & Professionalism  OHOA Module catch up, if needed | Coach supports portfolio construction, supports photography and videotaping if needed | Consider applying for NICE, completing NICE Modules and paperwork OR Begin portfolio construction | NA |  |
| 14 | May complete Modules or sections of Modules as self-study, if desired |  | Construct portfolio | NA |  |
| 15 |  |  |  | NA |  |
| 16 |  |  |  | NA |  |
| 17 | May complete Modules or sections of Modules as self-study, if desired | Coach supports portfolio construction, supports photography videotaping if needed | Construct/Submit Portfolio | NA |  |
| 18 |  | Coach helps with portfolio checklist | Submit Portfolio | NA |  |
| 19 |  |  |  | When certification received, apply for approval |  |
| 20 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 21 |  | Coach helps with approval application |  |  | Once approval is received, candidate can be listed as “intervener” on IEP |
| 22 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 23 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 24 |  |  |  |  |  |