Executive Functioning: Implications for Teaching and Learning

Featuring Ribas Associates Presenter

Dr. Barbara (BJ) Cataldo  NEW PRESENTER

Wednesday, January 11, 2017
at the MSSAA Office, Franklin

Sign-In/Registration: 8:00 am to 8:30 am
Workshop: 8:30 am to 3:00 pm
Fees: Member $195/Non-Member $260

The term "executive functioning" has become a buzzword in schools and elsewhere. Both general and special educators, as well as paraprofessionals and family members, have long observed that many students have difficulty with such things as planning, organization, maintaining attention, getting started on a task, remembering homework, and self-monitoring—all characteristics of executive functioning.

Executive functioning affects learning and performance in school and in life. Teachers and paraprofessionals can support students with executive function difficulties by teaching and working with students on both general and task-specific strategies that they can use to develop the core skills needed to self-monitor and take control of their schoolwork and their daily lives.

This workshop explores ways to guide students and facilitate the development of self-management skills. In each area of executive function, we will learn strategies that can be used by a teacher, a paraprofessional, or a family member to support the student. In addition, we will discuss ways to teach students how to design and use their own self-management strategies.

At the conclusion of this workshop, participants can expect to be able to:

- Recognize executive function difficulties in the classroom.
- Identify strategies and skills for organizing and managing time, materials, work area, homework.
- Identify strategies and skills for organizing ideas and written work.
- Identify ways to help with initiating a task.
- Develop ways to teach students strategies to use independently.

Dr. Barbara (BJ) Cataldo has worked in the field of education for 35 years, serving in both public and private schools. She taught for 16 years prior to transitioning to the central office and has been a Special Education Coordinator and Special Education Director. During the last decade she has been both an Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent for Student Services. Her experience in the public schools includes districts ranging from urban to suburban. In her last position as Superintendent, her district received national recognition for their high performance. Dr. Cataldo has written curriculum to assist adolescents with executive functioning needs and created technology plans to assist special education students with learning. She has trained teachers in the area of team teaching and offered training for paraprofessionals and substitute teachers. Additionally, she has been a Wilson Language Trainer for 17 years, a speaker for Understanding Our Differences, an adjunct instructor in the area of assessment, an independent presenter and special education advocate.