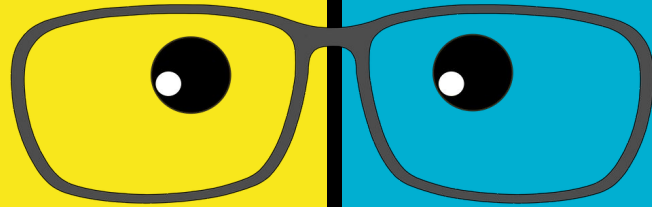


What We Wish We Knew Our First Year Teaching...



Jennifer Hehner, Peoria Public School District 150
Lauren Mehalek, Springfield Public Schools
Liz Freeman, Spec. Ed. District of Lake County (SEDOL)

Job Applications/Interviews

- **Where to find postings:**
 - K12 Job Spot
 - IASA Job Bank
 - Facebook
 - NIU Vision Job Board
- **What to bring:**
 - Binder of FVA/LMA/AT
 - Copies of Resume
 - Any certificates
 - UEB class documentation
 - EdTPA

Job Applications / Interviews Cont.

- **Questions to ask:**
 - Teacher Mentor
 - Resources available
 - Caseload/Mileage/Office Location
 - Prep time
 - Braillist
 - Other TVI's to collaborate with

I got a job, now what?

- **Lesson planning**
 - Planbook, Planboard, create own template
- **Data collection**
- **Chain of command**
- **Caseload**
 - Read/gather IEP's
 - Read/gather ocular reports
 - Know vision eligibility
 - *Dictionary of Eye Terminology* by Barbara Cassin

Today is my first day, what do I do?

- **Introductions**
- **School locations**
- **Sign-in procedures**
- **Bell schedules**
- **School rules and procedures**
- **Internet access**
- **Getting students oriented to schools**

If in a co-op:

- **District calendars**
- **Building contacts**
- **Access to each district's IEP program**

Creating a Schedule

- **Travel times**
- **Building bell schedules**
 - Regular school day
 - Late start/early dismissal days
 - AM/PM Early Childhood
- **Direct / indirect minutes**
- **Communicate with school staff**
 - Classroom teachers
 - Case managers
 - Other service providers
- **Prioritize what you can:**
 - Rigid secondary schedules
 - Early Childhood classes
- **Be flexible, but firm!**

Organization

- **Student files in a locked cabinet**
- **Google Drive**
- **Planner / Calendar**
- **Car storage**
- **Consider confidentiality**



Assistive Technology

- **Keep resources from undergraduate program**
- **Keep manuals on a flash drive**
- **Do not be intimidated!**
- **Teach the technology your students need to succeed, not just the technology you have succeeded with**
- **If issues arise - call or email the company**

Keep in mind...

“Teachers will not be replaced by technology, but teachers who do not use technology will be replaced by those who do.”

IEP

- **Goal banks**
- **VISSIT**
 - TSBVI
 - Free download
 - Easy to plug in information to determine proper minutes
- **IEP programs**
 - Who to ask for help
 - Log-ins for each district (if applicable)
 - Where to update goals
- **Tips:**
 - Focus on the student
 - Be calm, clear, and confident!
 - Print IEP and highlight vision sections



VISUAL IMPAIRMENT SCALE OF
SERVICE INTENSITY OF TEXAS

Resources

- **Deaf-Blind Project (Project Reach)**
 - Provides technical assistance, information, and training to improve services for children with deaf-blindness
 - <http://www.philiprockcenter.org/project-reach>
- **ISRC (Illinois Service Resource Center)**
 - Received grant to help students with vision loss
 - Does not have to have a diagnosed behavioral condition to receive services
 - <http://www.isrc.us/>
- **IATP (Illinois Assistive Technology Program)**
 - Provide braille and/or large-print textbooks
 - Recorders, magnifiers, braille-writers, braille paper, software, etc.
- **IIMC (Illinois Instructional Materials Center)**
 - Assistive technology device loans
 - Advocates in meetings for families

Continuing Education

- NIU - O&M, Rehab, AT
- ISU - El Vista
- WMU - O&M, Rehab, TVI
- Professional Development:
 - Keep a folder of PD completed
 - Input into ELIS account
 - <https://sec3.isbe.net/IWASNET/login.aspx>
- Mentoring Programs at your new work



Documentation

- **Service / Consult Logs**
- **Parent/Guardian Communication Logs**
- **Mileage**
- **Minutes**
- **Working with advocates**



Collaborative Relationships in the Field

- **Keep in touch with classmates from schooling programs**
- **Keep in touch with professors, cooperating teachers, etc.**
- **Facebook pages:**
 - Teachers of the Blind and Visually Impaired/O&M Specialists
 - Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) Support
- **IAER**



Any Questions?

