

Stretching the Stimulus Dollars For Education: Make the most of federal funding with strategic programmatic investment

It is certainly good news for many school systems that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) contains specific funding allocation for preschool through grade 12. But this infusion of educational funding comes with a caveat: The recent legislation also stipulates that school systems should use at least half this funding for capacity-building and long-term, strategic programmatic investments that will have an impact beyond fiscal years 2010 and 2011, after the ARRA funding has run out.

With additional funding from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), many schools systems will have an opportunity to significantly enhance existing programs and create a sustainable array of services for troubled students.

Walker Partnerships can assist in the development and implementation of Therapeutic Inclusion Support Model programming to strengthen and expand your school system's capacity to serve your SED student population. We can also provide a wide range of professional development opportunities to your school-based staff that will enable your district to build and retain system-wide expertise. Through contracted service, our highly skilled and experienced staff can provide ongoing consultation with complex cases, as well as assist with reducing SED-related tuition and transportation costs throughout your district.

Planning now can pay dividends in the fall, and in future years, as well. For a no-obligation consultation to learn more about the Walker Partnerships Therapeutic Inclusion Support Model, contact Jim Earley at jearley@walkerschool.org or call 781-292-2178.



Walker Partnerships to collaborate with Wareham Public Schools to create new alternative high school program

We are very pleased to announce the formation of a new staffing partnership between Walker Partnerships and the Wareham Public Schools.



Under the leadership of Bob Louzan, Director of Student Services for the Wareham Public Schools, an off-campus high school alternative program will begin serving students this May. This new initiative will provide local programming for students who have been academically unsuccessful at the high school level as a result of their complex social and emotional needs.

The new Wareham program will benefit from the sharing of expertise developed at Beacon High School. A highly successful alternative high school program in Watertown and a division of Walker since 1995, Beacon High School provides integrated educational and therapeutic services to 60 students.

We look forward to working with the Wareham Public Schools by sharing best practices to provide effective new tools and strategies for educating adolescents struggling with serious challenges.

For information on Walker Partnerships services and special education program development for your school system, please contact:

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Walker program quickfind: Walker Partnerships

New professional development opportunities from Walker Partnerships: Additional trainings include the CANS assessment and TCI

Along with the wide range of trainings that are currently available for your professional and para-professional staff, Walker Partnerships professional development services is expanding to offer two new trainings highly relevant to the members of your school-based team who work with troubled students.

A specialized training in the utilization of the **Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths** assessment (CANS) is now available. This standardized assessment tool was developed to determine the total potential impact of several interconnected support service components, and it enables a complex system of care to remain focused on the shared vision of serving children and families with improved outcomes management.



CANS will be administered by clinicians as a primary component in the implementation of the new Children's Behavioral Health Initiative. As you prepare your school-based team for the changes that will result from CBHI, this three-hour training can provide your staff with a solid understanding of the CANS assessment protocol.

In the fall of 2009, Walker Partnerships will be offering **Therapeutic Crisis Intervention** (TCI) training to school and collaborative personnel. TCI is an intervention model for professionals in the fields of education, special education, child care, crisis management, counseling, and social work. Developed at Cornell University, the model provides strategies for de-escalating and preventing crises, managing physical acting-out behavior, reducing potential injury to students and staff, and teaching students skills for emotional and behavioral self-regulation.

For more information about trainings for CANS or TCI, please contact Jim Earley at jeasley@walkerschool.org or at 781-292-2178. You can also visit www.walkerschool.org/Programs_WP_Training.aspx to see a full list of Walker Partnerships training topics.

A Reminder . . .

Walker Partnerships offers a comprehensive and fully integrated set of interventions and support services for public school systems and collaboratives:

- *School-based behavioral support*
- *Home-based behavioral support*
- *Case management*
- *Training and professional development*
- *Curricula and program consultation*
- *Team consultation*
- *Psychiatric consultation*
- *Student evaluation and assessment*
- *Emergency stabilization*
- *Staff recruitment*
- *Systemwide program and grant evaluation*
- *Alternative-secondary-school support*
- *Coordinated Program Review preparation assistance*

Call us today at 781-292-2178 to learn more about how we can create a unique set of services to help strengthen and expand your school system's capacity for high-quality special education programming.

Successful southeast region expansion extends reach of Walker Partnerships program support services

The formal expansion of Walker Partnerships into the southeast region of Massachusetts has successfully moved ahead this year under the direction of Jim Shillinglaw.

Several collaboratives and school districts have requested and received no-obligation consultations, discussing the various ways that Walker Partnerships services can strengthen their system-wide capacity to effectively educate troubled students.

Some school systems have requested program development proposals for the implementation of the Walker Partnerships Therapeutic Inclusion Support Model for fiscal year 2010. Professional development, program evaluations, case consultation, and program consultation services have also been provided to a number of school districts, as well.

For further information regarding Walker Partnerships services, special education administrators who are located in the southeast region of the state can contact Jim directly at 339-237-7531 or at jshillinglaw@walkerschool.org.

