

Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress

2011-2012 Teacher Partnership Network



MDSC's TEACHER PARTNERSHIP NETWORK is an exciting new initiative that our Education Task Force first piloted in the fall of 2010. This statewide network is made up of educators with experience teaching students with Down syndrome and a desire to share their knowledge. These "experienced educators" are matched by grade, specialty and location when possible with "educator partners", teachers with limited or no experience teaching students with Down syndrome.

WE BELIEVE that our "experienced educators" are uniquely positioned to offer invaluable support, share skills, and effectively mentor new teachers. Ultimately, this partnership will help dispel myths about the potential of students with Down syndrome and lay the groundwork for a valuable and productive educational experience for both educator and student.

Experienced Educators should have at least 2 years of experience educating students with Down syndrome and can be...

- general education teachers
- special education teachers
- administrators
- inclusion specialists
- paraprofessionals
- therapists (OT, PT, and Speech)
- behaviorists/guidance counselors/school psychologists/social workers

Experienced Educators are interviewed by members of the MDSC Education Task Force and required to provide at least one reference, as well as attend an orientation/training in August.

Experienced Educators are expected to make at least three contacts (via email, phone or in person) with their *Educator Partner* and provide feedback to the MDSC Education Task Force.

For more information please contact Rosalie Forster, MDSC Education Resource Specialist and Conference Coordinator and Chairperson of the MDSC Education Task Force at rforster@mdsc.org or call (781) 221-0024 ext. 301.