



University of Illinois at Chicago
College of Education
Department of Special Education

Internet Informational Sheet

Thank you for your interest in the Collaborative Teacher Network. The network is part of a research study where middle school teachers, both special educators and general educators from Chicago Public Schools participate in professional development designed to enhance **teachers' content area reading instruction** to improve the achievement of students with disabilities. Participants of the Collaborative Teacher Network will **work collaboratively with general and special educators** from their own school as well as other Chicago Public Schools who are also teaching content to middle school learners with disabilities. Teachers will learn about evidence-based content reading strategies designed to enhance students' **access to the general education curriculum**. Teachers will use their students' work samples as a vehicle for their own and collaborative inquiries as well as planning instruction. Participants in the project will use online multimedia resources to enhance their instruction, and will conduct inquiries about their students' learning and their teaching over their participation in the project.

Educators will work collaboratively through bi-monthly workshops (16 total) and web-based activities. All participants will earn a stipend, classroom instructional resources, and Illinois CPDUs.

Research on the Collaborative Teacher Network will focus on the potential efficacy of a network of middle school educators to enhance their content area instruction to improve reading and overall achievement of students with disabilities. Please contact us if you would like further information or would like to join the project. **We can be reached by e-mail ctnuic@ctnuic.com, phone 312-413-1053, or through our website www.uic.edu/orgs/ctn.** Please contact us now to ask us questions, to see if you are eligible, and/or to complete the enrollment process.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **Who is part of the Collaborative Teacher Network?**

Three groups of teachers will interact in the project:

Experienced special educators: These educators will have four or more years of teaching experience, be certified in special education, and have experience teaching students in grades 6, 7 or 8. We will have Information Sessions to tell you more about the network and possible roles and work. In those sessions, we will ask you to complete paperwork and participate in an interview.

Middle school special educators: These educators will be teaching students with disabilities, be certified in special education, currently be teaching at least three students in grades 6, 7 or 8, and collaborate in some way with a general educator who is interested in participating in the project and attending workshops.

General middle school educators: These educators will currently be teaching students in grades 6, 7 or 8, be certified in elementary or secondary education (Type 3 or Type 9), and currently be collaborating in some way with a special educator who is interested in participating in the project and attending workshops.

***** Interested? Want to know more? Please call or email, and attend one of our Orientation Sessions to participate in either of these roles. Call 312-413-1053 or email ctnuic@ctnuic.com.**

2. What will happen during the workshops? The workshops will be focused on practical knowledge and skills, and participants will learn a variety of reading comprehension strategies to use with middle school students to help them access the subject matter content. Workshops are activity-based, and teachers will share actual artifacts from colleagues' classrooms, discuss plans for their own classrooms, and see videos from Chicago Public School teachers' classrooms. At each workshop, participants will receive materials that include handouts and hooks.

3. Tell me logistics about the workshops – when, how many, how long, and where?: The workshops happen about twice per month, and there are a total of 16 over one school year. Each workshop is 2.5 hours, and they will happen after school from 4:30 - 7:00. Workshops will take place at centrally-located locations or at University of Illinois at Chicago campus.

4. Who attends workshops? Pairs of middle school teachers, one a special educator and one a general educator. Those teachers will have some of the same students in common.