

RIDE Standards for Teacher Assistants

RIDE standards and indicators identify the knowledge and skills that must be covered in a RIDE approved Teacher Assistant Training Program. Those who hold an associate's degree or higher and have completed coursework or other training that covers the knowledge and skills as listed in RIDE TA Standards may be exempt from taking the pre-employment training class.

Standards and Indicators for ALL Teacher Assistants:

Standard 1. *Teacher assistants demonstrate a level of professionalism in communication and collaboration among members of the school community, including colleagues, families, and related agencies.*

- 1.1 exhibit an understanding of the differentiated staffing patterns that exist in the learning environment and the distinctions among the roles and responsibilities of professional and paraprofessional personnel.
- 1.2 demonstrate an understanding of school policies and procedures.
- 1.3 exhibit attributes of reliable attendance, promptness, and dependability.
- 1.4 use a cooperative approach.
- 1.5 respect confidentiality and other professional ethics.
- 1.6 exhibit sensitivity and understanding of individual and cultural differences.
- 1.7 provide an appropriate role model for children in areas of dress, language, and behavior.
- 1.8 use effective communication skills (spoken, written and non-verbal):
 - to plan with team members
 - to review student needs and concerns
 - to report student performance
- 1.9 select and use the appropriate channels for resolving concerns.
- 1.10 demonstrate a knowledge of the legal and human rights of children and youth and their families.
- 1.11 demonstrate an awareness of standards-based education reform in RI

Standard 2. *Teacher assistants support teachers by participating in instructional opportunities.*

- 2.1 use appropriate strategies and techniques developed by teachers and other professional staff to support individual students' needs.
- 2.2 use age and developmentally appropriate instructional procedures and reinforcement techniques.
- 2.3 assist the teacher in planning, modification, and implementation of curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
- 2.4 gather and maintain data about the performance and behavior of individual students.
- 2.5 demonstrate awareness of basic educational technology.
- 2.6 demonstrate an understanding of and respect for cultural diversity.
- 2.7 assist the teacher in providing instruction in reading, writing and mathematics or reading readiness, writing readiness, and mathematics readiness

Standard 3. *Teacher assistants support a learning environment that encourages appropriate standards of behavior, positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self-motivation.*

- 3.1 follow discipline guidelines in accordance with school policy and legal requirements.
- 3.2 implement positive behavioral supports.
- 3.3 maintain and monitor compliance with classroom rules, procedures and behavior standards.
- 3.4 serve as an appropriate behavior role model.
- 3.5 motivate and assist students in acquiring interpersonal skills, increased self-esteem, and independence.

Standard 4. *Teacher assistants exhibit knowledge of health, safety, and emergency procedures of the learning environment.*

- 4.1 demonstrate knowledge of universal health care precautions.
- 4.2 demonstrate knowledge of lifting techniques.
- 4.3 participate in sustaining a clean, healthy, and safe learning environment.
- 4.4 recognize indicators of abuse (substance, physical, sexual, emotional) and demonstrate knowledge of Rhode Island reporting laws.