

NASDSE: Personnel Improvement Center 2010 Services for Utah

Background Information. The State of Utah applied for and received services from the National Center to Improve Recruitment and Retention of Qualified Personnel for Children with Disabilities (NASDSE Personnel Improvement Center or PIC) to assist the state in increasing the number of candidates in our special education preparation programs and, therefore, increase qualified new hires available to high need local districts.

FOCUS AREA 1

The Utah focus for our Para to Teacher service agreement is to identify the action steps LEAs and IHEs can implement for the recruitment and support strategies needed for bringing working paraeducators into a preparation program leading to a special education teaching license. We believe that increasing access to our higher education personnel preparation programs for communities is an effective way to address chronic personnel shortages.

FOCUS AREA 2

The Utah focus 2 for our service agreement is to identify the action steps LEAs and the SEA can implement leading to Highly Qualified status for all special educators, especially those at a secondary level. Strategies for recruitment, retention, and professional development will be shared.

Personnel Improvement Center Receives Funding from OSEP

The National Center to Improve the Recruitment and Retention of Qualified Personnel for Children with Disabilities (Personnel Improvement Center) was funded on October 1, 2008, under a new cooperative agreement between the [National Association of State Directors of Special Education \(NASDSE\)](#) and the US Department of Education, [Office of Special Education Programs \(OSEP\)](#).

As a technical assistance and dissemination (TA and D) project, our mission is to identify, disseminate and assist States in implementing evidence based practices to meet the need for highly or fully qualified special education, early intervention and related services personnel, including paraprofessionals.