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Survey for Spring 2009  
Massachusetts FOCUS Academy Course on How to Partner with Families of Middle and High School Students with Disabilities to Achieve Success, Part I

**CAPI –MAKE STUDENT ID A MANDATORY FIELD**

Please enter your unique password for this course in the box below and then click on the “submit” button below to proceed.

This password was provided to you in the e-mail invitation for this survey.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
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**CAPI: PRE-PROGRAM A LIST OF THE ALLOWABLE PASSWORDS – RANGE FOR THIS ITEM IS 6 CHARACTERS AND MUST BE FROM THE ALLOWABLE LIST OR SHOULD NOT PROCEED.**

**CAPI: IF ID NUMBER DOES NOT MATCH OUR RECORDS: PLEASE PRODUCE AN ERROR MESSAGE**

Congratulations on completing the Massachusetts FOCUS Academy’s course on How to Partner with Families of Middle and High School Students with Disabilities to Achieve Success, Part I. This survey will help us better understand what you learned from the course, what your experience was like, and how your coursework will impact your future work with your students.

**Your experience in this course is important to us, and we greatly appreciate your feedback!**

The answers you provide will not be linked to your name or contact information in any reports. They will be grouped with all of the other course participants. You may skip any questions that you do not wish to answer.

At the end of each page, please hit the “submit” button to proceed. Please do not use the “back” button on your browser.

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**SECTION A: Course Evaluation**

The first section of the survey is designed to help us better understand your experiences as a student in the Massachusetts FOCUS Academy’s on-line course on How to Partner with Families of Middle and High School Students with Disabilities to Achieve Success, Part I.

A1. On average, how many hours per week did you spend on this course (doing readings, assignments, reviewing notes, writing papers, studying for exams) outside of class time?

\_\_\_\_\_ hrs

A2. Including this course, how many courses have you taken online so far in your career?

# \_\_\_\_\_

A3. The next set of questions asks about your experience with the course content. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each statement below.

| Course Content  | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|---|-------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------|----------------|
| a. Course objectives were clear.  | 1                 | 2        | 3                          | 4     | 5              |
| b. Lectures, discussion, and activities were relevant to the course objectives. | 1                 | 2        | 3                          | 4     | 5              |
| c. The course was well organized.   | 1                 | 2        | 3                          | 4     | 5              |
| d. The course was practical.  | 1                 | 2        | 3                          | 4     | 5              |

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A4. The next set of questions asks about your experience with the course delivery. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each statement below.

| Course Delivery   | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|---|-------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------|----------------|
| a. I had sufficient opportunity to ask questions of the instructor. | 1                 | 2        | 3                          | 4     | 5              |
| b. I received prompt feedback from my instructor.                   | 1                 | 2        | 3                          | 4     | 5              |
| c. The instructor met any accommodation needs I had.                | 1                 | 2        | 3                          | 4     | 5              |
| d. The instructor respected my culture.                             | 1                 | 2        | 3                          | 4     | 5              |
| e. Course objectives were achieved.                                 | 1                 | 2        | 3                          | 4     | 5              |

A5. Did you feel you had adequate technical support available to you, if you had any difficulties accessing or using the on-line course system?

- Yes → SKIP TO Q6
- No

A5a. How can technical support be improved? Please specify in the box below:

Specify: \_\_\_\_\_ **CAPI: Width = 40, Length = 2**

A6. The next set of questions asks about your experience with the course instructor. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each statement below.

| <b>Course Instructor</b>   | <b>Strongly disagree</b> | <b>Disagree</b> | <b>Neither agree nor disagree</b> | <b>Agree</b> | <b>Strongly Agree</b> |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| a. Instructor displayed thorough knowledge of subject matter.                    | 1                        | 2               | 3                                 | 4            | 5                     |
| b. Instructor covered topics with enough depth.                                  | 1                        | 2               | 3                                 | 4            | 5                     |
| c. The instructor was flexible in adjusting to students' needs.                  | 1                        | 2               | 3                                 | 4            | 5                     |
| d. Instructor included recent developments in the field in the course.           | 1                        | 2               | 3                                 | 4            | 5                     |
| e. Instructor related course material to practical situations.                   | 1                        | 2               | 3                                 | 4            | 5                     |
| f. The feedback I received about my performance in the course was helpful to me. | 1                        | 2               | 3                                 | 4            | 5                     |

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A7. The next set of questions asks about the impact this course may have had on your work. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each statement below.

| <b>Impact of this course on my work with students with disabilities.</b>  | <b>Strongly disagree</b> | <b>Disagree</b> | <b>Neither agree nor disagree</b> | <b>Agree</b> | <b>Strongly Agree</b> |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| a. My participation in the online discussions added to my learning in the course.                                   | 1                        | 2               | 3                                 | 4            | 5                     |
| b. I gained factual knowledge about the subject matter covered in course.   | 1                        | 2               | 3                                 | 4            | 5                     |
| c. I am confident I can apply what I learned in this course in my work with students with disabilities.             | 1                        | 2               | 3                                 | 4            | 5                     |
| d. After taking this course, my interest in this subject matter has grown.  | 1                        | 2               | 3                                 | 4            | 5                     |
| e. I have increased my skills in working with students with disabilities because of things I learned in his course. | 1                        | 2               | 3                                 | 4            | 5                     |
| f. This course helped me develop the skills I need to be successful in this field.                                  | 1                        | 2               | 3                                 | 4            | 5                     |
| g. Taking this course helped me feel more connected to colleagues in other schools and communities.                 | 1                        | 2               | 3                                 | 4            | 5                     |

A8. Please briefly describe a specific example in which you applied what you learned in this course with a student or students and how that may have impacted the student.

Specify: \_\_\_\_\_ **CAPI: Width = 40, Length = 2**

A9. Any additional comments about this course? Please describe in the space below:

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**SECTION B: Course Content**

The questions in this section of the survey will help us better understand participant’s current level of knowledge in key areas of the course.

**CAPI: CORRECT ANSWERS HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW ONLY FOR ANALYSIS PURPOSES – DO NOT PLACE EMPHASIS ON THESE RESPONSE CATEGORIES IN QUESTIONNAIRE ON WEB.**

B1. Which of the following is not a “Principle of Partnership,” as delineated by Turnbull? (Check only one)

- <sub>1</sub> Equality
- <sub>2</sub> Trust
- <sub>3</sub> Energy
- <sub>4</sub> Commitment

B2. Under No Child Left Behind, which of the following are requirements for school districts receiving Title 1 funding? (Check all that apply)

- <sub>1</sub> Involve parents in developing a written parental involvement policy
- <sub>2</sub> Provide assistance to parents in understanding the state’s student academic achievement standards
- <sub>3</sub> Educate teachers and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners.
- <sub>4</sub> All of the above

B3. Below are several statements regarding research on adolescent achievement. For each item, please indicate whether it is true or false.

|   | True   | False  |
|---|--|--|
| a. Because adolescents are developing increasing levels of independence, parental involvement has a negligible effect on adolescent academic achievement. | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |
| b. The further in school parents believe their adolescents will go, the higher the adolescents’ academic achievement.                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>            |
| c. High parental expectations mitigate the negative effect of risk factors such as low income on student achievement.                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>            |
| d. Support provided by friends is more powerful than academic encouragement parents provide to their adolescents.   | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> |

B4. According to Joyce Epstein, which of the following are types of involvement? (Check all that apply)

- <sub>1</sub> Parenting
- <sub>2</sub> Communicating
- <sub>3</sub> Learning at Home
- <sub>4</sub> Decision Making
- <sub>5</sub> All of the above

B5. When professionals assume a stance of cultural reciprocity, they internalize the ability to do which of the following? (Check all that apply)

- 1 Identify their own cultural values, as well as those of students and families
- 2 Explain American mainstream culture to families of diverse backgrounds
- 3 Adapt professional recommendations to family value systems
- 4 Influence family value systems so they become consistent with professional recommendations

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B6. Levels of cohesion and adaptability in a family: (Check all that apply)

- 1 Describe the ways that members of family subsystems interact
- 2 Describe the nature of boundaries among family subsystems and among members and non-members of a family
- 3 Can be assessed uniformly across cultures
- 4 Can serve to predict parent and child responses to situational and developmental stress

B7. Research by the Frostig Center shows that which of the following are life success attributes for students with learning disabilities? (Check all that apply)

- 1 Self Awareness
- 2 Perseverance
- 3 Emotional Coping Strategies
- 4 Use of Support Systems
- 5 All of the above

B8. Student self determination is effectively encouraged by:  
(Check all that apply)

- 1 Implementing Person-Centered Planning
- 2 Embedding opportunities for decision making into the life of the student
- 3 Fostering in students a mindset which welcomes challenge
- 4 Transitioning from parent-led to student-led decision making
- 5 All of the above

B9. Which of the following is not an example of conversation strategies which encourage communication? (Check only one)

- 1 Giving "You Messages"
- 2 Paraphrasing
- 3 Reflecting Feeling
- 4 Summarizing

B10. According to Massachusetts state special education regulations, which of the following are duties of the district special education parent advisory council (PAC)? (Check all that apply)

- <sub>1</sub> Offer membership to all interested parties.
- <sub>2</sub> Participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of school district special education programs.
- <sub>3</sub> Advise the district on matters that pertain to the education and safety of student with disabilities.
- <sub>4</sub> Cooperate with the school district to conduct one workshop annually on the rights of students and their parents and guardians under state and federal special education laws.
- <sub>5</sub> All of the above
- <sub>6</sub> None of the above

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**SECTION C: General Feedback**

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This final section of the survey asks for general feedback about this course and ways we can better reach out to other professionals like you in the future.

C1. What types of professional development opportunities are currently available to you through your school district to help you improve your work with students with disabilities or to help you stay abreast of best practices in this field? (Check all that apply)

- <sub>1</sub> Peer mentorship
- <sub>2</sub> College courses
- <sub>3</sub> Membership in a professional organization / attending professional conferences
- <sub>4</sub> Training opportunities (e.g., workshops, in-service trainings) – Specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- <sub>5</sub> Other opportunities – Specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- <sub>6</sub> No opportunities available to me

C2. How did you hear about this course? Was it through: (Check all that apply)

- <sub>1</sub> School principal
- <sub>2</sub> Superintendent
- <sub>3</sub> A teacher at my school
- <sub>4</sub> Department of Education website announcement
- <sub>5</sub> Director of SPED at my school
- <sub>95</sub> Other way – Please Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

C3. What was the **main** reason you applied for this course? (Check one)

- <sub>1</sub> It fulfilled a requirement on my professional development plan
- <sub>2</sub> A colleague recommended I take the course
- <sub>3</sub> My administrator advised me to take the course
- <sub>4</sub> I wanted to improve my skills in working with students with disabilities
- <sub>5</sub> I wanted to learn more about best practices in serving students with disabilities
- <sub>6</sub> It looked interesting

C4. Many participants were new to on-line education. How often did you use the **discussion board** feature of the course? Was it ... (Check one)

- <sub>1</sub> Very often (at least once a week)
- <sub>2</sub> Somewhat often (more than 8 times in the semester)
- <sub>3</sub> Not very often (less than 8 times in the semester)
- <sub>4</sub> Never used the discussion board feature

C5. Did you find the faculty of the course to be ... (Check all that apply)

- <sub>1</sub> Approachable or available
- <sub>2</sub> Knowledgeable
- <sub>3</sub> Organized
- <sub>4</sub> Interesting
- <sub>5</sub> Supportive
- <sub>6</sub> None of these statements apply to the faculty for this course

C6. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being **extremely confident**, how confident are you in your ability to apply what you learned in this course in your work with students with disabilities?

# \_\_\_\_\_ [CAPI: RANGE OF WHIOLE NUMBERS 1-10 ONLY]

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C7. Has taking this course had **any** impact on your work with students with disabilities? (Check one)

- <sub>1</sub> Yes
- <sub>2</sub> No → Skip to Q8

C7a. How has this course **impacted your work** with students with disabilities?

Specify: \_\_\_\_\_ [CAPI: Width = 40, Length = 2]

C8. What aspects of the course should be improved, should it be offered again in the future? (Check all that apply)

- <sub>1</sub> More opportunity to connect with classmates
- <sub>2</sub> More depth of content
- <sub>3</sub> Less depth of content
- <sub>4</sub> Faster pace of presenting material
- <sub>5</sub> Slower pace of presenting material
- <sub>6</sub> Offer course in face-to-face format rather than on-line Expect less previous experience or expertise in the subject matter
- <sub>7</sub> Provide more opportunity to ask questions
- <sub>8</sub> Provide more opportunity to apply what was learned in course
- <sub>9</sub> Other things to improve - Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

C9. Please check the box below that **best** described how satisfied you are with the course overall.  
Are you:

- <sub>1</sub> Extremely satisfied
- <sub>2</sub> Somewhat satisfied
- <sub>3</sub> Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- <sub>4</sub> Somewhat dissatisfied
- <sub>5</sub> Extremely dissatisfied

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C10. Would you recommend this course to other teachers in the state? (Check one)

- <sub>1</sub> Yes – because ... \_\_\_\_\_
- <sub>2</sub> No – because: \_\_\_\_\_

C11. How can the Department of Education **best** reach teachers and staff who work with students with disabilities to inform them about opportunities to take part in courses like this one? (Check all that apply)

- <sub>1</sub> Send notifications to district superintendents
- <sub>2</sub> Send notifications to school principal
- <sub>3</sub> Advertise in Massachusetts teacher's association newsletter
- <sub>4</sub> Post course opportunities in Department of Education website
- <sub>5</sub> Other way – Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

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Thank you for completing this survey. Your feedback is invaluable as we strive to provide best meet the needs of educators across the state.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Holly Matulewicz at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Her e-mail is: [holly.matulewicz@umb.edu](mailto:holly.matulewicz@umb.edu).  
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