



To: *Physical/Health Disabilities (P/HD) Teachers New to the Field*

We are excited that you have completed your licensure in the area of Physical/Health Disabilities and are embarking on the next step- working in the field as a P/HD teacher! As you begin this rewarding new career direction, we invite you to take advantage of numerous professional staff development opportunities and educator resources made available to you by the MN Low Incidence Projects. These activities and resources are specifically designed to meet the needs of P/HD teachers, who, in addition to serving students under the PI category, may also serve students under the categories of OHD and/or TBI.

➤ **Statewide Physical/Health Disabilities (P/HD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Communities of Practice (CoP)**

Regional representatives to the statewide CoPs are identified by the RLIFs* (regional low incidence facilitators) and are required to attend meetings and serve as points of contact/information for their regional colleagues. Participation in the Statewide P/HD CoP and/or the TBI CoP meetings is also open to any one with a vested interest in these categorical areas*. Access to Statewide P/HD and TBI CoP meetings is made possible through on-site attendance at a metro area location, and remotely via distance technology. For more information about the Statewide P/HD and TBI CoP meeting schedules, go to the [MN Low Incidence Projects website](#) and click on PI or TBI, then click on Professional Development. (See below for more information on this website.) To be included on a general Statewide P/HD or TBI contact list, please send the following information to Deb Williamson, Statewide PI/TBI Specialist Deb.Williamson@metroecu.org and you will be added to the database(s).

School district name and region

Work address

Work phone

Home or cell phone (in case of last minute meeting or event cancelation)

Indicate if you are an identified regional representative.

* If you are new to the field and are **not** a designated regional representative, please talk with your RLIF before attending a meeting. If you are not sure who your RLIF is, click on the link below where you will find a document entitled *Low Incidence Facilitators by Region*.

<http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/EdExc/SpecEdClass/DisabCateg/index.html>

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Statewide Resources & Supports for P/HD Teachers (2016-17)



➤ **Statewide Mailing Lists for the Disability Areas of PI, OHD, and TBI**

(Formerly known as list servs)

P/HD teachers are encouraged to subscribe to the Statewide P/HD, OHD and/or TBI Mailing Lists, which is a tool for members to share information and resources in the areas of Physical Impairments, Other Health Disabilities and TBI. Statewide P/HD, OHD & TBI List guidelines can be found online at www.mnlowincidenceprojects.org (click on the categorical area, then Regional/State Support link)

➤ **MN Low Incidence Projects Website** www.mnlowincidenceprojects.org

The Minnesota Low Incidence Projects website was designed to provide low incidence special educators with the necessary professional supports and resources required to address the educational needs of the students, staff, and families they serve. Once on the webpage, click on the PI, OHD or TBI links to access information and resources specific to these disability areas. Resources include statewide educator manuals, resources, professional development opportunities, CoP membership lists and meeting minutes, templates, guidelines, service delivery considerations, and other technical training materials.

➤ **P/HD Wiki**

This customized interactive website provides an opportunity for members to access numerous resources, templates, and guidelines pertinent to the fields of PI, OHD and TBI. Members can download/upload material, collaborate with colleagues on projects, locate resources, and more. To join the P/HD Wiki, individuals must request permission to join by clicking on the following link: <http://mnphdnetwork.pbworks.com/>

➤ **Professional Mentorship Program**

In an effort to strengthen Minnesota's support for educators teaching in the low incidence disability areas, professional mentorship support is offered through the MN Department of Education to licensed teachers in low incidence special education areas who are new to the field. Protégés are matched up with an experienced mentor in their licensure field during their first year. For more information, contact Becca Jackson, Work Force Specialist with the MN Department of Education at:

Rebecca.Jackson@state.mn.us

For more information on these and other resources for P/HD teachers, contact:

Deb Williamson, Statewide PI, OHD & TBI Specialist

MN Low Incidence Projects

Phone: 612.638.1532

Email: Deb.Williamson@metroecu.org

Website: www.mnlowincidenceprojects.org