

# Happenings



## WHAT IS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE?

Technical Assistance (TA) has been used to describe a variety of targeted supports that are provided to an organization with a need or problem. It is typically delivered over an extended period and its efforts can be linked to improving the quality of school systems and educators'. Effective TA should be collaborative, targeted, adaptive and customized. The structure in which the WVBMTAC provides TA varies based on the need. We provide in person, Zoom, Teams, by phone, email, and/or recordings and resources found on our websites and YouTube Channel. The first step is to complete the request for assistance form that will be sent to the regional behavior support specialist. Next, a plan will be made to get things started.

## PROBLEM SOLVING AS A TEAM

Challenging behaviors affect all schools, but we know that proper problem-solving and teaming systems can help. Our schoolwide team recently had the opportunity to work alongside a school to teach problem-solving techniques and provide technical assistance. The team provided three different support options with various training items. Our behavior support specialist trained the school team on essential behavior practices including self-regulation, trauma, de-escalation, and how to implement PBIS classroom practices. The team utilized the Teams Initiated Problem Solving (TIPS) process as well as learned how to identify the function of behavior in order to develop and implement behavior plans to improve student behavior. This school team has noted success and fewer occurrences of challenging behaviors. We continue to check in and monitor this school's success. If you're interested in similar technical assistance, you can submit a TA Request using the link or scanning the QR code to the right of this article.

### What's inside?

- Problem Solving
- The Wisdom of Why
- Top Concerns
- Book Recommendations
- Resources

### REQUEST ASSISTANCE

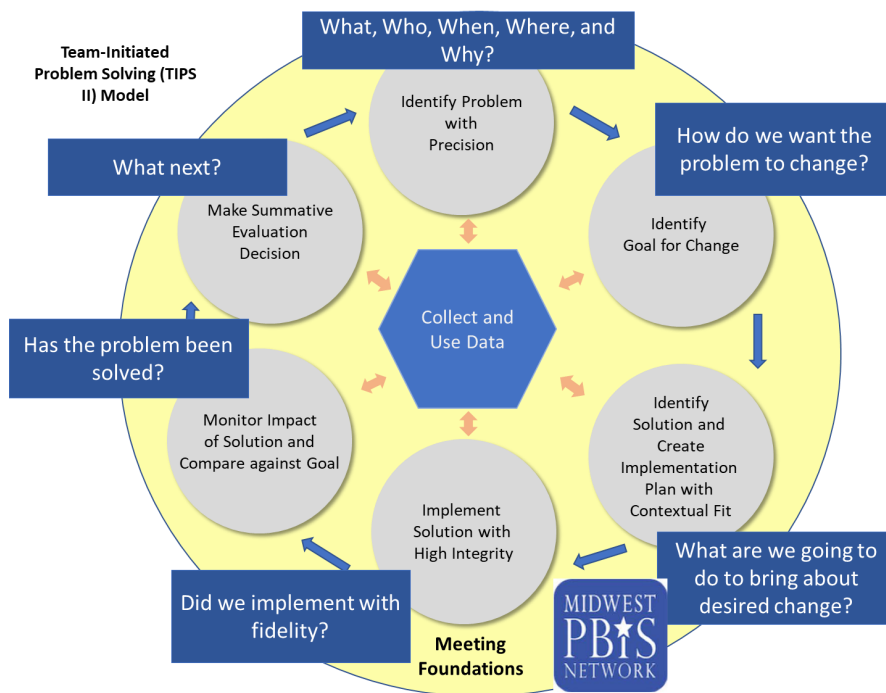
The TA Center has conveniently created a request for assistance form that can be found on our website using the provided link. The form has several questions that assist us with identifying the regional Behavior Support Specialist, understanding current initiatives as well as the current need in your classroom, school or county.

<https://www.marshall.edu/bmhtac/request-for-assistance/>

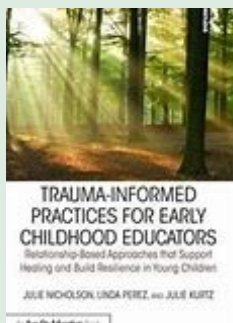


SCAN ME

**TEAM-INITIATED PROBLEM SOLVING (TIPS) IS A MODEL THAT ADDRESSES BARRIERS BY BREAKING DOWN PROBLEM SOLVING INTO SIX CRITICAL STEPS TO GUIDE TEAMS THROUGH A DATA-BASED DECISION-MAKING PROCESS THAT LEADS TO DESIRED OUTCOMES.**



*“Thinking of behavior as a learning disability is unconventional for sure, but maybe it is the way to the “why” we have been searching for.”*



The book *Trauma-Informed Care for Early Childhood Educators* is a great resource for teachers, coaches and supervisors. The book is very informative on the impact trauma has on children's brains, behavior and development. It offers a variety of trauma-informed practices that teachers can use in their classrooms to promote positive behaviors, healing and resiliency. In addition, it provides strategies for involving families and providing supervisors with tools they can use to support staff wellness. The book is available for purchase on Amazon.

## THE UNCONVENTIONAL WISDOM OF WHY

"Why?!" The question we often ask when we encounter challenging behavior. A question that is not easily answered. A book that has propelled my thoughts further regarding the elusive "why" is *Changeable*, by Dr. J. Stuart Ablon. Whether you are in early childhood or working with students about to graduate, this book has something important to offer. Challenging conventional wisdom to unconventionally think about behaviors as learning disabilities. Specifically, Dr. Ablon cites research and experience to see Tier 3 level needs as learning disabilities that fall within three areas 1.) flexibility/adaptability 2.) frustration tolerance 3.) problem-solving. Thinking of behavior as a learning disability is unconventional for sure, but maybe it is the way to the "why" we have been searching for.





## SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS RATE STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH TOP CONCERN

In the fall of 2022, Mental Health First Aid USA conducted a nationwide survey of school board members. The school board members ranked mental health as the number one issue facing students and schools today. Currently, suicide is third-leading cause of suicide for youth ages 15-19 and one in four adolescents aged 12-17 have had a substance use disorder or major depressive order in the past year.

It is important for families, school personnel and students to be able to recognize the signs and symptoms of a mental health challenge. Responding quickly to a student's needs is vital. The WVBMHTAC is here to help. To request free MHFA training go to our website at <https://www.marshall.edu/bmhtac/request-for-assistance/>



To read the press release go to:

<https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/2023/01/school-board-survey/>



## UPCOMING DATES

**April 30, 2023**  
**Ritter Park,**  
**Huntington**— 22nd Annual Ruth Sullivan Rally for Autism

**June 6-7, 2023**  
**Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center**—Working Smarter, Not Harder: Establishing Systems, Enhancing Skills, and Empowering People

## WVBMH TAC

The goal of the WVBMH TAC is to assist teachers, students, families, and communities that are faced with challenging behaviors and mental health issues through training, resources, and promotion of evidence-based strategies and interventions.



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