

NEWS RELEASE



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AutismPro Workshops Allows Districts To Train Educators Today, Building Capacity for the Long Term

U.S. Department of Education urges the use of stimulus funds for short-term efforts that will benefit long-term goals

DENVER (June 15, 2009) – *AutismPro Workshops*, the professional development component of *AutismPro*, provides a cost-effective way to train educators and school staff members who work with students with autism. Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States, and this effort to provide critical professional development will allow districts to build capacity for the increasing number of students diagnosed with autism.

AutismPro Workshops enables educators to learn techniques specifically related to their students' needs, increasing educator effectiveness when working with students with autism. Helping to boost confidence through validation and troubleshooting, the program is useful for the entire staff, especially for teachers who have limited training in working with students with autism in their classrooms.

Featuring up to 45 hours of online content, *AutismPro Workshops* is a comprehensive, yet flexible professional development program in which educators learn a range of evidence-based strategies that can be applied to real-world school situations. Educators can easily digest and apply fundamental concepts and techniques through easy-to-read instruction, video demonstrations, and case examples from across the autism spectrum. Topics covered include the most commonly used concepts and strategies in the field of autism intervention.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provides unique opportunities for school districts to invest in innovative tools, and *AutismPro Workshops* can be used to address ongoing challenges and improve outcomes for students with autism. By allowing consistent, expert-authored training to be offered district-wide, *AutismPro Workshops* helps educators and teaching assistants become more comfortable with teaching students with autism. This provides the additional administrative benefit of reducing turnover rates, helping administrators retain talented educators.

“The U.S. Department of Education recently released guidelines urging districts to utilize special education aid under the stimulus measure for short-term investments that have the potential for

long-term benefits,” said Kevin Custer, CEO of Virtual Expert Clinics, Inc., provider of *AutismPro*. “*AutismPro Workshops* allows districts to effectively train general education teachers and staff members to better work with students with autism. The limited initial investment in this program ensures educators can improve educational outcomes for all learners after stimulus funds are no longer available.”

AutismPro Workshops is available for less than \$100 per teacher for district implementations. For more information about *AutismPro*, visit www.AutismPro.com.

About Virtual Expert Clinics, Inc.

Virtual Expert Clinics, provider of a 21st century response to educating students with autism, works with school districts, early intervention providers, and governments to supplement quality programs. The company’s flagship product, *AutismPro*, allows administrators to build capacity and helps educators to improve outcomes. Virtual Expert Clinics has offices in Denver, Colo., and Fredericton, New Brunswick. For more information, visit <http://www.AutismPro.com/Media> or phone 1-866-462-0991.

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