



## **PS...Did You Know? Regional AAC Cohorts**

**Title:** Introducing Regional AAC Cohorts that will focus on communication for students that currently show NO observable form of communication

In June of 2015 IDOE, Office of Special Education in collaboration with the Office of Student Assessment and the PATINS project began a Communication Community of Practice (CoP). As you know, during the 2014-15 school year some students in grade 3-8 and 10 took the NCSC alternate assessment. Instead of the old ISTAR assessment that was teacher rated, NCSC was a student response alternate assessment (student indicates response and teacher can mark it online-A, B, C, etc.). This was a nationwide requirement and a shift from a functional based assessment to an academic assessment. Another difference between the previous ISTAR test and NCSC was that teachers could note if a student had 'no observable mode of communication'. The new/current ISTAR (similar to NCSC) also allows for teachers to make this designation. Now that some students with significant disabilities are categorized as having 'no observable mode of communication it is imperative to see what kind of supports could be offered to schools and teachers. This Communication CoP was started in order for educators to provide feedback from the field on communication and to help prioritize efforts in order to help teachers/schools.

The Communication CoP consists of a variety of educators from across the state. Recently the group decided that Regional AAC Cohorts and/or Staff PD would be beneficial to educators. It should be noted that these Regional AAC Cohorts and/or Staff PD will focus on communication for students that currently show NO observable form of communication. This is not a general AT/AAC group. We are very focused and intentional.

These introductory regional cohort meetings will be held at each of the 5 PATINS Regional Offices listed below and facilitated by one of the Communication CoP leaders. The purpose of this introductory meeting is to obtain feedback on how these regional cohorts can benefit the field, the frequency of meetings, etc. The dates and locations of each regional meeting are listed below. Please consider joining one of them and RSVP by clicking the link at the end.

**RSVP:** <http://bit.ly/comcopmeet>

- OR : [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1fAQVd8ZxGRMzmYr\\_JpYGpYlyLY-ngzRF9m01giSyz9E/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1fAQVd8ZxGRMzmYr_JpYGpYlyLY-ngzRF9m01giSyz9E/viewform)

### **Communication CoP Initial Regional Cohort Meetings**

#### **Central:**

April 12, 2016

4:00pm EST

6036 Lakeside Blvd., Bldg. A

Indianapolis, IN 46278

**Virtual Attendance Option Registration:** <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/3926914946919361025>

#### **Southwest:**



(CORRECTED DATE) April 11, 2016

4:30pm EST / 3:30pm CST

Castle South MS/PATINS

3711 Casey Road

Newburgh, IN 47630

**Virtual Attendance Option Registration:** <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/8314651337478312706>

**Northwest:**

Tuesday, May 17, 2016. 4:00-5:00 CST. 2150 West 97<sup>th</sup> Place, Crown Point, IN 46307.

Room 10.

**Virtual Attendance Option Registration:** <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/5219857058303824129>

**Northeast:**

April 12, 2016. 4:00-5:00 pm EST. NE PATINS Office. 1101 Colerain St. Wabash, IN 46992

**Virtual Attendance Option Registration:** <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/3065148519068423937>

**Southeast:**

May 17, 2016. 3:45pm EST. BCSC Administration Office, 1200 Central Ave., Columbus, IN. Special Education Conference Room. 17 in-person seats available.

**Virtual Attendance Option Registration:** <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/7244548347242264066>

[Regional AAC PD flyer.pdf](#)