



# Chris Walsh Center for Educators and Families of MetroWest

## Our Mission:

*To provide information for families and educators about the continuum of educational support available to students with disabilities, students who are gifted, and students with unmet needs. The center will offer support, workshops and other programming for families, educators, student support professionals, administrators, and advocates in the MetroWest area. The center also will engage in scholarly research, educator preparation, and professional development.*

## Learn More:

[www.framingham.edu/chriswalshcenter](http://www.framingham.edu/chriswalshcenter)

## Graduate Assistantship:

The graduate assistant will work closely with the center's coordinator, Dr. James Cressey, on a variety of priorities and projects throughout the fall and spring semesters. Flexibility, independence, creative thinking, and people skills will be essential attributes for the graduate assistant. Some of the projects and responsibilities will include (but are not limited to) the following. **Some or all of these responsibilities may be completed remotely by the graduate assistant.**

- ◆ **Parent/guardian support groups:** The center will design, coordinate, and promote a series of parent/guardian support events. The graduate assistant will have a leadership role in the planning and implementation of this public service.
- ◆ **Drop-in Hours:** Parents/guardians of students with disabilities have indicated their desire for drop-in hours when they can come ask questions about special education laws and procedures, and get support for their families as they navigate confusing systems of special education and mental health.
- ◆ **Professional Development for Educators:** The center offers live webinars and in-person lectures and workshops for educators. The graduate assistant will help plan and implement these events.
- ◆ **Supporting Undergraduate Interns and Student Workers:** The center typically has 1-3 undergraduate interns and student workers each semester. The graduate assistant will help supervise and support these students, with guidance from the center coordinator.

- ◆ Grant Funding: The center will seek private and/or public grants to fund our work. The graduate assistant will work with FSU's Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs to identify funding opportunities and develop grant proposals.
- ◆ School District Outreach: As the center grows, we will seek formal partnerships with school districts in the MetroWest region. The graduate assistant will help conduct outreach to key stakeholders in the region's school districts (e.g., special education administrators, professional development coordinators, superintendents).
- ◆ Campus Outreach: The center's broad mission allows for many possible collaborations on campus, with a variety of academic departments, offices, and the other centers. The graduate assistant will form and foster essential connections with our campus partners and promote opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to engage with the center.
- ◆ Research-to-Practice Dissemination: Through the center's website and social media presence, we will offer evidence-based resources to families and educators. The center assistant will conduct literature reviews on key topics (e.g., dyslexia interventions, inclusion practices for twice-exceptional students, sensory-friendly classroom environments for students with autism). The center will create "Research-to-Practice" briefs that present this essential information to readers in engaging, clear formats.
- ◆ Resource Library: The center will build a library of resources for educators (books, curriculum materials, and equipment) that can be borrowed by local educators.
- ◆ Research Initiatives: The center plans to engage in original research in the region, to build on our needs assessment findings. The graduate assistant may have the opportunity to co-present at conferences and/or contribute to scholarly publications.

Please contact Dr. James Cressey with any questions:

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