

REBECCA ERIN FOLKERTS

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EDUCATION

- 2024 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Special Education
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Advisor: Dr. Hedda Meadan
Thesis: *Pre-service special education teachers and functional behavioral assessments: A randomized controlled study*
- 2014 Master of Education (Ed.M), Special Education
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- 2011 Bachelor of Music (B.M.), Music Performance
Minor: Special Education
James Madison University

CERTIFICATIONS

- 2018 - Present Board Certified Behavior Analyst - Doctoral (BCBA-D)
#1-18-32736
Authorized Continuing Education Provider IP-23-10460
- 2014 - Present Illinois Professional Educator License: Learning Behavior Specialist - I
Endorsement: Learning Behavior Specialist I (Pre-K - 22)
License ID: 2283682

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2026 Instructor
SPED 6225: *Behavior Analytic Interventions in Communication*
Department of Special Education and Child Development, UNC Charlotte
- Spring 2025 Instructor
SPED 412: *Understanding Special Education Law and Ethics*
Department of Special Education, University of Illinois
- Fall 2024 Instructor
SPED 510: *Legal Aspects of Disabilities*
Department of Special Education, University of Illinois
- Fall 2024 Instructor
SPED 405: *The General Educator's Role in Special Education*
Department of Special Education, University of Illinois

Spring 2024	Co-instructor SPED 426: <i>Collaboration and Teaming</i> Department of Special Education, University of Illinois Co-instructor: Dr. Laurie Andrews
Fall 2023	Co-instructor SPED 440: <i>Instructional Strategies I</i> Department of Special Education, University of Illinois Co-instructor: Dr. Amber Ray
Fall 2021, Spring 2022	Practicum Supervisor EDPR250: <i>School and Community Experiences</i> Department of Special Education, University of Illinois Instructor: Laurie Andrews
Spring 2021	Graduate Teaching Assistant SPED 322: <i>Introduction to Intellectual Disabilities</i> Department of Special Education, University of Illinois Instructor: Stacy McGuire
Fall 2020	Graduate Teaching Assistant SPED 405: <i>The General Educator's Role in Special Education</i> Department of Special Education, University of Illinois Instructors: Dr. Erica Mason and Julia Snider

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024 – Present	Independent Contractor <i>Develop and deliver on-demand and in-vivo workshops for school-based behavior analysts and district administrators.</i>
Fall 2022 - 2025	Special Education Project Coordinator <i>Project: Training Qualified Interpreters for IEP Meetings – Special Education Training (State of Illinois Public Act 101-0124)</i> Principal Investigator: Dr. Hedda Meadan (in collaboration with the UIUC Department of Linguistics and the Illinois State Board of Education) <i>Directed the development of four modules related to special education law and parts of the IEP meeting for the Illinois state-wide interpreter training.</i>
2021 - 2022	Co-Project Coordinator/Graduate Research Assistant

Project: Effects of the Family Behavior Support App (FBSApp) on behavior intervention delivery for early childhood teachers: A single case design

Principal Investigator: Dr. Hedda Meadan

Fall 2020

Graduate Research Assistant

Project: Cross-cultural caregiver perceptions, preventative, and responsive interventions to challenging behavior

Principal Investigator: Dr. Hedda Meadan

2019 - 2020

District Coordinator & Behavior Analyst

Office of Diverse Learner Supports + Services, Chicago Public Schools
Chicago, IL

Consulted on Due Process cases within the district and collaborated with district attorneys. Designed and delivered professional development and coached school teams on classroom and behavior support, crisis management, and instructional strategies.

2014 - 2019

Special Education Teacher, 9th-12th grade & Transition Services
Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, Chicago Public Schools
Chicago, IL

Instructed students with extensive support needs and multiple disabilities, initiated school-based and site-based vocational and life skills opportunities, supervised practicum students

2017 - 2018

Lead Behavior Therapist

Chicago ABA Therapy, Chicago, IL

2012

Dedicated Paraprofessional, Pre-K

McGaheysville Elementary School, Rockingham County Public Schools
McGaheysville, VA

2008 - 2011

Extended School Year and Substitute Paraprofessional, K-5th grade
Meadowood Program, Red Clay Consolidated School District
Wilmington, DE

DOCTORAL INTERNSHIPS

Summer 2023

Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Intern
Research to Practice Division

Project: Dissemination of Technical Guidance on Rights of Students with Disabilities Related to Discipline

Collaborated with employees across OSEP, attended sessions and meetings with multiple U.S. Department of Education offices, completed a

guide for higher education faculty navigating the resources and guidance on student discipline

- Summer 2022 - Spring 2023 Policy and Research Legislative Fellow
Center for Social and Behavioral Science, University of Illinois
Representative Carol Ammons, IL District 103
[Project: Investigating and improving the child welfare system in Illinois](#)
Conducted focus groups with subject matter experts and state legislators and developed fact sheets and brief literature reviews on desired topics, leading to drafting and filing three bills related to education and child welfare
- June 2022 - Present OSEP Scholars Steering Committee Co-Chair
Co-led an inaugural group of doctoral students funded through 325K personnel preparation grants; disseminated resources from the Department of Education, collaborated regularly with employees from OSEP, hosted events with the director and employees of OSEP

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Folkerts, R., & Meadan, H.** (2024). Preparation of pre-service special education teachers on conducting functional behavioral assessments: A pilot study. *Preventing School Failure: Alternative Education for Children and Youth*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1045988X.2024.2431975>
- McGuire, S., **Folkerts, R.**, Richards, C., Meadan, H., Alquaysi, R., & Yoon, C. (2024). Early childhood teachers' use of an FBA iOS app to support students with challenging behavior: A pilot study. *Technology, Pedagogy, and Education*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1475939X.2024.2405146>
- Price, R., Martin, M. R., **Folkerts, R.**, Haidar, B. S. (2024). Behavior analysis forums and the ethical landscape of social media behaviors. *Behavior Analysis in Practice: Special Issue*.
<https://doi.org/10.1001/s40617-024-00921-5>
- McGuire, S., Meadan, H., & **Folkerts, R.** (2024). Classroom and behavior management training needs and perceptions: A systematic review of the literature. *Child and Youth Care Forum*, 53, 117-139. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10566-023-09750-z>
- McGuire, S., Martin, M. R., Meadan, H., Adams, N. B., Haidar, B. S., Griffin, C., & **Folkerts, R.** (2022). Black, Mexican American, and White caregiver practices to prevent challenging behavior, 51, 1441-1454. *Early Childhood Education Journal*.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-022-01403-5>

Johnson, H., Carpenter, M., Austin, A., & **Folkerts, R.** (2022). Including students with significant support needs in the development of behavior support plans, *I*(3), 106-113. *Inclusive Practices*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/27324745221082953>

McGuire, S., **Folkerts, R.**, Meadan, H., Adams, N. B., Lee, J. D., & Kaza, M. (2021). Cross cultural caregiver perceptions of challenging behavior and responses. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, *50*, 1343-1354. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-021-01264-4>

PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION

Folkerts, R., McGuire, S., Meadan, H., Pennington, R., & Novak, J. (in preparation) Opening the conversation: Special education teaching faculty understanding of Applied Behavior Analysis.

Folkerts, R., & Meadan, H., Xia, Y. (in preparation). The use of online modules to teach functional behavioral assessments to pre-service special education teachers: A randomized controlled trial.

Folkerts, R., & Meadan, H. (in preparation). Functional behavioral assessments: A survey on pre-service special education teacher preparation.

UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPT

Springer, R. (2014). Meaningful participation in music classes for students with severe and multiple disabilities. (Master's Research Project)

AWARDS and GRANTS

2023	First Place Quantitative Research Poster Award Kaleidoscope, Teacher Education Division (TED), Council for Exceptional Children
2023 - 2024	Student Research Grant, Association for Positive Behavior Support
2023 - 2024	Margaret Bansau Scholarship Award, College of Education University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
2023	Paper Presentation Award University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Graduate Student Conference
2022 - 2023	University Fellowship, Department of Special Education University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- 2022 Best Research on Issues of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Purdue Autism Research Center (PARC) Conference Poster Session
- 2021 - 2022 Goldstick Family Doctoral Fellowship, College of Education
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2022 Education Policy and Politics Doctoral Short Course Scholar
Higher Education Consortium of Special Education (HECSE)
Attended a one-week course led by Dr. Jane West on the history and principles of special education law and tips for lobbying and translating research to practice
- 2021 Outstanding Literature Review Award
Kaleidoscope, Teacher Education Division (TED), Council for Exceptional Children
- 2021 - 2022 University Fellowship, Department of Special Education
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2020 - Present Doctoral Traineeship, Project Co-LEAD
Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education
Collaboration Across Universities to Prepare Leaders in Evidence Based Practices, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Diversity
Principal Investigator: Dr. Hedda Meadan
- 2012 - 2014 Master's Traineeship, Project ACCESS
Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education
Innovative Access to Curriculum for Students with Severe Disabilities
Principal Investigator: Dr. Stacy Dymond

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Folkerts, R.** & Meadan, H. (2025, November). *Online trainings for preparing pre-service special education teachers to conduct functional behavioral assessments*. Session presentation at Teacher Education Division (TED) Conference, Kansas City, MO.
- McGuire, S. & **Folkerts, R.** (2025, November). *Applied behavior analysis in teacher preparation programs: Understanding and attitudes among special education faculty*. Session presentation at Teacher Education Division (TED) Conference, Kansas City, MO.
- Folkerts, R.**, McGuire, S., & Meadan, H. (2025, April). *Online trainings for preparing pre-service special education teachers to conduct functional behavioral assessments*. Session at the Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS) Conference, St. Louis, MO.

- Borosh, A. & Folkerts, R. (2025, April). *Practice-based coaching for school-based behavior analysts*. Session at the Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS) Conference, St. Louis, MO.
- Folkerts, R., & Borosh, A. (2024, March). *Building and refining district-wide behavior support teams: Tips for equitably reaching the masses*. Session at the Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS) Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Folkerts, R., & Meadan, H. (2024, March). *Preparing Pre-service special education teachers to conduct FBAs: A multiple methods study*. Poster presentation at the Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS) Conference, Chicago, IL.
- McGuire, S., Folkerts, R. (2023, November). *Teaching Replacement Behaviors: A Guide for Teachers*. Session presentation at the Teacher Educators for Children with Behavior Disorders (TECBD) Conference, virtual.
- Folkerts, R., Meadan, H. (2023, November). *Preparation of pre-service special education teachers on conducting functional behavioral assessments*. Session presentation at the Teacher Educators for Children with Behavior Disorders (TECBD) Conference, virtual.
- Folkerts, R. (2023, November). *Preparation of pre-service special education teachers on conducting FBAs*. Poster presentation at the Teacher Education Division (TED) Conference, Long Beach, CA.
- Folkerts, R. & McGuire, S (2023, November). *Five steps to replacing challenging behavior*. Paper presentation at the Teacher Education Division (TED) Conference, Long Beach, CA.
- Folkerts, R. (2023, July). *Preparation of pre-service special education teachers on conducting FBAs*. Poster presentation at the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Leadership and Project Directors' Conference, Arlington, VA.
- Folkerts, R., Long, A., Perez-Clark, P., & Kim, C. (2023, July). *Continuing the conversation: Perspectives of OSEP Scholars*. Poster session at the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Leadership and Project Directors' Conference, Arlington, VA.
- Folkerts, R. (2023, March). *Pre-service preparation of special education teachers on conducting functional behavioral assessments*. Paper presentation at the College of Education Graduate Student Conference, Champaign, IL.
- Folkerts, R., McGuire, S. N., Donnelly, N., Voorhis, C., Alquansyi, R., Yoon, C., & Meadan, H.

(2022, November). *Early childhood teacher use of the FBSApp: A single case design*. Presentation at the Teacher Education for Children with Behavior Disorders (TECBD) Annual Conference, virtual.

McGuire, S. N., **Folkerts, R.**, Donnelly, N., Voorhis, C., Alqunaysi, R., Gilmartin, E., & Meadan, H. (2022, September). *Early childhood teacher implementation of the FBSApp*. Poster presentation at the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

McGuire, S. N., **Folkerts, R.**, Meadan, H. (2022 July). *Behavior management coursework for elementary education majors*. Breakout session at the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Leadership and Project Directors' Conference, Virtual.

Zepp, L., **Folkerts, R.**, Long, A., Whiddon, A., & Perez-Clark, P. (2022, July). *Collaborating to address the impact of COVID-19 on doctoral students*. Poster session at the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Leadership and Project Directors' Conference, Virtual.

Folkerts, R., Meadan, H. (2022, April). *Functional Behavioral Assessments: A Scoping review of special education teacher preparation*. Ignite presentation at the 19th International Conference on Positive Behavior Support (APBS), San Diego, CA.

Folkerts, R., Martin, M. R., Haidar, B. S. (2022, April). *Cross-cultural caregivers' perceptions of and experiences with challenging behavior*. Purdue Autism Research Center (PARC) 2022 Conference, West Lafayette, IN.

Folkerts, R. & Austin, A. (2022, February). *Student voice in the FBA-BIP*. Concurrent session at Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo (CEC), Virtual.

Carpenter, M., Johnson, H., Austin, A., & **Folkerts, R.** (2022, January). *Including students with ESN in the FBA process*. 23rd International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability & Developmental Disabilities (DADD), Clearwater Beach, FL.

Folkerts, R. (2021, November). *A review of pre-service special education teacher preparation on conducting functional behavioral assessments*. Kaleidoscope poster presentation at Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children Conference (TED), Fort Worth, TX.

McGuire, S. N., Meadan, H., & **Folkerts, R.** (2021, November). *Classroom and behavior management training: A review of the literature*. Poster session at Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children Conference (TED), Fort Worth, TX.

Austin, A., **Folkerts, R.**, Sleiman Haidar, B., & Newson, A. (2021, May). *From practitioner to PhD student: Transitioning from school-based professional to researcher*. Panel: Association for Behavior Analysis International Convention (ABAI), Virtual.

McGuire, S. N., **Folkerts, R.**, Adams, N. B., & Meadan, H. (2021, March). *Culturally and ethnically diverse caregivers' experiences with challenging behavior*. Ignite presentation at the 18th International Virtual Conference on Positive Behavior Support (APBS).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & DISTRICT CONFERENCES

(developed and delivered)

Folkerts, R., McGuire, S. (2022, March). *Choosing and Implementing Function-Based Behavior Interventions*. Illinois New Teacher Collaborative Annual Leadership Conference (INTC), Champaign, IL.

Folkerts, R., McGuire, S. (2022, March). *Making Data-Driven Decisions for Challenging Behavior*. Illinois New Teacher Collaborative Annual Leadership Conference (INTC), Champaign, IL.

Folkerts, R. (2021, Nov). *Social emotional learning & managing behavior at home*, Parent Academy, Urbana School District 116.

Folkerts, R., & Austin, A. (2020, July). *Supporting stressed-out staff: Evidence-based strategies for motivating staff to manage student behavior*, Summer Leadership Institute, Chicago Public Schools.

Folkerts, R. (2019-2020). *Addressing challenging behavior for students with emotional and behavioral disorders in the classroom setting*, Chicago Public Schools - Recurring Professional Development Series

Miller, E., **Folkerts, R.**, & Austin, A. (2019-2020). *Choosing function-based behavior interventions & replacement behaviors*, Chicago Public Schools - Recurring Professional Development Series

Folkerts, R. (2019-2020). *Class-wide behavioral systems & supports*, Chicago Public Schools - Recurring Professional Development Series

Folkerts, R. (2020). *Establishing control in the classroom*, Chicago Public Schools - Recurring Professional Development Series

Folkerts, R., & Austin, A., Auerbach, S., & Cramer, S (2019-2020). *Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis*, Chicago Public Schools - Recurring Professional Development Series

Folkerts, R. (2020). *High incidence disabilities: Reinforcement systems*, Chicago Public Schools - Recurring Professional Development Series

Folkerts, R., & Miller, E. (2020). *Responding to and de-escalating challenging behavior in the classroom*, Chicago Public Schools - Recurring Professional Development Series

Miller, E., Austin, A., **Folkerts, R.** (2019, August). *Basics of functional behavioral assessments and behavioral intervention plans*, Case Manager Kickoff Conference, Chicago Public Schools.

Folkerts, R., & Miller, E., (2019, July). *Positive behavior supports for the early childhood classroom*, Early Childhood Summer Institute: Ready, Set...Teach! Chicago, IL.

SERVICE

2021 - present	Article Peer Reviewer <i>Journals: Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities; Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions; Early Childhood Development and Care</i>
2023 - present	Volunteer Advocate <i>Support foster parents at IEP meetings, particularly during MDR meetings or change of placement conversations</i>
2023	Proposal Reviewer: Teacher Education Division (TED) Conference; Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS) Conference
2022	Advocated on Capitol Hill for increasing appropriations for IDEA through the CEC Special Education Leadership Summit (SELS)
2021-2022	OSEP Scholars Steering Committee Member
2021- Present	Specialized Foster Parent, Illinois
2021, 2022	Behavior Consultation and Coaching for Child Development Laboratory Teachers, University of Illinois
2019 - 2020	BCBA Supervisor
2018 - 2020	Mentor - Safe Families Plus, Chicago, IL
2017 - 2020	Peer Buddy - Best Buddies International Citizens Program, Chicago, IL
2015 - 2019	Best Buddies International Faculty Adviser, Chicago, IL

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI)

Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS)

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

Member, *TED - Teacher Education Division*

Member, *CCBD - Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders*

Member, *Illinois Council for Exceptional Children*

Member, *DEC - Division for Early Childhood*