



The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), established the District Contacts for Paraprofessional Issues to disseminate information of importance to paraprofessionals and their supervisors. The focus of this newsletter is to provide resources for more effective teacher and paraprofessional collaboration.



SERC's Paraprofessional as Partners Initiative 2011-2012 Calendar at a Glance
All sessions will held in the SERC Library Community Room
Middletown, Connecticut

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Autism

Wednesday, January 18, 2012
A.M. Session: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
OR
PM Session: 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

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English Language Learners
Thursday, February 9, 2012
A.M. Session: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
OR
PM Session: 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

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Fee: \$15.00 per person
For more information and to register online, visit: www.ctserc.org and click on "Professional Development"

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Save the Date!
17th Annual Statewide Conference
Paraprofessionals As Partners
Wednesday, November 14, 2012
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cromwell, CT

Connecticut Paraprofessional of the Year

The Connecticut State Department of Education and The School Paraprofessional Advisory Council have developed a program to recognize the important role of the paraprofessional. The purpose of this award is to give public recognition to outstanding Connecticut paraprofessionals. Nominations will be solicited from public schools and RESCs throughout the state.

Each district will design its own process for selecting its local paraprofessional of the year, and paraprofessionals, teachers, administrators and the public must view the process as fair and inclusive. Local paraprofessionals of the year will then be invited to submit an application, which will require a written statement, to a selection committee who will screen applications. Statement would include what they have been doing as a paraprofessional, types of positions, and students they have worked with. Applicant would need to submit two letters of recommendation (limited to one page each). One letter would need to come from their direct supervisor.

Semifinalists will then be interviewed by the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council. The Paraprofessional of the Year will be announced during the 17th Annual Statewide Paraprofessionals as Partners Conference, Wednesday, November 14, 2012.

Additional information will be sent to superintendents this Winter.

Please contact Iris White at iris.white@ct.gov, for more information.



Discussing Curriculum and Instruction with Paraprofessionals

1. Introduce the paraprofessional to instructional procedures.
2. Discuss state, local district and classroom learning goals.
3. Explain your teaching philosophy and teaching style.
4. Discuss your lesson plan format.
5. Share teacher guides for texts and materials.
6. Introduce paraprofessionals to classroom learning stations and explain how they are used.
7. Allow paraprofessionals time to familiarize themselves with educational software and technology.
8. Demonstrate the operation of instructional technology and audiovisual equipment.
9. If the paraprofessional is primarily assigned to one student, clarify the teacher's role in the student's instruction, including the times the teacher will be working with the student.
10. Discuss IEPs for students with special needs. Plan objectives and lessons that address IEP goals.
11. Provide assistance and direction to paraprofessionals who work in semi-independent situations, such as:
 - Community transition support
 - Work Study
 - Transportation, etc.
 - Computer labs
14. Support paraprofessionals in using modified instructional plans and materials to accommodate the learning needs of various students.
15. Encourage the paraprofessional to share observations of students' needs.
16. Discuss health-related needs of specific students, as appropriate.
17. Discuss local, state and federal guidelines that affect curriculum and instruction.

Adapted from, "Let's Team Up!" A Checklist for Paraeducators Teachers and Principals

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