



State Capitol Building
Hartford, Connecticut

FEBRUARY 2013 UPDATE FOR
DISTRICT CONTACTS FOR
PARAPROFESSIONAL ISSUES

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.

IN MEMORY OF ANNE MARIE MURPHY



This month's newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Anne Marie Murphy, a special education paraprofessional who died in the Newtown shooting. Mrs. Murphy, wrapped 6-year old Dylan Hockley in her arms as they both fell in a hail of bullets at Sandy Hook Elementary School. She worked one-to one with Dylan, who had special education needs.

After the tragedy, the family of Dylan Hockley released a statement saying that their 6-year old baby boy died in the loving arms of Mrs. Murphy:

"We take great comfort in knowing that Dylan was not alone when he died, but was wrapped in the arms of his amazing aide, Anne Marie Murphy."

"Dylan loved Mrs. Murphy so much and pointed at her picture on our refrigerator every day."

"Though our hearts break for Dylan, they are also filled with love for these and other beautiful women who all selflessly died trying to save our children," the family said.

2014 Connecticut Paraprofessional of the Year

Last month, information regarding the 2014 Connecticut Paraprofessional of the Year Program was sent to all Superintendents, Directors of Charter Schools, Executive Directors of Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) and District Contacts for Paraprofessional Issues. Information along with the nomination packet also have been posted on the CSDE Paraprofessional Information and Resources page: www.ct.gov/sde/para-cali.

This will be the second year of the program, which was established by the CSDE and the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council,

to recognize the important role of the paraprofessional in supporting student achievement. The program honors one paraprofessional who has demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication in his/her job, thereby earning them the respect and admiration of students, teachers, administrators, coworkers and parents. All district nominees, along with the 2014 Connecticut Paraprofessional of the Year will be honored during the State Education Resource Center (SERC) Paraprofessionals as Partners Conference on Wednesday, November 14, 2013.



Connecticut Paraprofessional of the Year *Tenisha A. Baker* with East Hartford District Administrators during the Recognition Ceremony right to left: Emil Kopcha, Principal, Sunset Ridge Elementary Academy for Arts and World Language, East Hartford Public Schools; Sharon Bremner, Ed.D., Director of Pupil Personnel Services, East Hartford Public Schools; *Tenisha A. Baker*, 2013 Connecticut Paraprofessional of the Year, East Hartford Public Schools; Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent, East Hartford Public Schools, and Christopher T. Wethje, Director of Human Resources, East Hartford Public Schools.



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THAT
CREATES ALL
OTHER
PROFESSIONS.**

-Unknown

Paraprofessional Educator Certificate Program

If your goal is to pursue, achieve, and sustain success as an educational paraprofessional, you should consider this supportive Charter Oak State College *online* certificate program developed in conjunction with the professional staff of Connecticut's Capitol Region Education Council (CREC). This online five-course program of study, provided in conjunction with Charter Oak College, is designed for paraprofessionals who are interested in college credit. Learning outcomes are based on the National Paraprofessional Standards and include information on behavior techniques, communication, legal issues, instructional strategies, and roles and responsibilities. Upon completion of the five, three-credit courses, participants will receive a certification from Charter Oak and credits can be applied to other programs, including associate or bachelor degrees.

Paraprofessional Educator Certificate Course (each course offers 3 credits)

Introduction to the Paraprofessional: An overview of the roles and responsibilities of the educational paraprofessional. Learning outcomes are based on Levels One and Two of the National Paraprofessional Standards and include an understanding of behavior techniques, communication, legal issues, and instructional strategies.

Advanced Behavior Techniques: An in-depth study of specific strategies designed to prevent and/or manage challenging student behaviors. Learning outcomes are based on the National Paraprofessional Standards Levels One through Three.

Autism and Assistive Technology: An examination of specific academic and behavioral strategies employed to assist autistic students in the classroom. The course additionally explores the use of assistive technologies that support independent learning.

Exceptional Learners Paraprofessional: A study of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that focuses on the disability categories protected under federal law. The course provides insight into the characteristics of each of the law's disability categories and looks at the academic and behavioral strategies designed to assist students with disabilities. Learning outcomes are based on the National Paraprofessional Standards Levels One through Three.

The Paraprofessional Internship: An on-site classroom internship designed to allow you to apply skills learned in the *Introduction to the Paraprofessional* course. Learning outcomes are based on National Paraprofessional Standards Levels One through Three. The course present an opportunity for you to work 120 hours in a real educational setting. The course instructor and on-site supervising teacher will maintain regular contact with you throughout your internship. You will be responsible for selecting the internship site.

For more information, please contact Janet Scialdone at 860-509-3681 or via e-mail at jscialdone@crec.org.

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