



# Connecticut State Department of Education

## June 2014 Update for District Contacts for Paraeducator Issues

### Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee Approves Study on Para Staffing

During its Committee meeting on May 15, The Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee voted to approve a study on School Paraprofessional Staffing. This study will focus on instructional paraprofessional staffing policies and practices in Connecticut K-12 public schools. This study will not examine non-instructional paraprofessionals or paraprofessionals working in early childhood settings. In particular, the study will describe the range of responsibilities paraprofessionals are hired to perform and examine how the number and use of paraprofessionals has changed recently. The areas of analysis will be as follows:

1. Determine the scope of instructional paraprofessional job responsibilities in Connecticut.
  - A. Compare paraprofessional job responsibilities across school districts.
  - B. Examine paraprofessional responsibilities described in student individualized education programs (IEPs).
2. Analyze trends in the overall number of paraprofessionals employed in public school districts statewide; compare with the number of certified teachers.
  - A. Identify trends in types of paraprofessional employment (e.g., special education, tutoring).
3. Review hiring, training, and professional development practices for various paraprofessional roles including comparisons to federal requirements, Connecticut guidelines, and the range of district standards.
4. Examine how paraprofessional staffing levels are determined by districts.
  - A. Describe the interaction between certified teachers and instructional paraprofessionals.
5. Determine the frequency or duration of common responsibilities and the number of different responsibilities a single paraprofessional may routinely perform.
  - A. Compare time spent within and outside of paraprofessional job responsibilities.
6. Review the Connecticut State Department of Education's role in regulating paraprofessional use.
  - A. Describe the state's monitoring of paraprofessional use and the alignment of district practices with state use guidelines.
7. Identify ways to measure the impact of paraprofessionals on individual, classroom, school, and/or district outcomes using an Results Based Accountability (RBA) approach.

The final report and recommendations will be made in December prior to the 2015 legislative session.

#### SAVE THE DATES!

32nd National Conference on the Training and Employment of Paraeducators  
**THE POWER OF PARAEDUCATORS: A PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE**

April 16-18, 2015

Hilton Hartford Hotel, Hartford, CT

Don't miss this opportunity to:

- Meet and network with paraeducators, teachers and administrators from other school districts, states and countries and
- Attend diverse workshops covering literacy and math common core, small group instruction, ELL, early childhood, supervision, writing, proactive behavior management, autism, strategies for students with significant cognitive disabilities, SRBI, and more.

For more information, please contact: Iris White at 860-713-6794 or via e-mail at [iris.white@ct.gov](mailto:iris.white@ct.gov).

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

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### 2015 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Program

There is still time to submit applications for the 2015 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year. Nomination packets must be postmarked by Friday June 6 and sent to Iris White, Connecticut State Department of Education, 165 Capitol Avenue, Room 344, Hartford, CT 06106. Nomination forms are available on the CSDE Paraeducator Information and Resources page at [www.ct.gov/sde/para-cali](http://www.ct.gov/sde/para-cali).

The 2014 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year, Georgina Cabrera, will be recognized along with other educators at the Celebrating Excellence in Education: Connecticut's 2014 Honorees reception on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, at the Governor's Residence.

In lieu of the National Resource Center for Paraeducators (NRCPC) Conference next April, the State Education Resource Center (SERC) will not be holding its annual Paraeducator Conference until the Fall of 2015. However, the CSDE and SERC will host a separate recognition ceremony for the Paraeducator of the Year and all district nominees on Thursday, November 6, 2014, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell, Connecticut.



Photo Courtesy of AFT Connecticut

Governor Malloy recognized paraeducators with an official state proclamation in honor of the National Paraeducator Appreciation Day on April 2, 2014. Governor Malloy welcomed a group of paraeducators to the Connecticut State Capitol proclaiming that the State of Connecticut and the Connecticut State Department of Education are committed to excellence in education and recognize the important role paraeducators play in ensuring educational success for all students.

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