

March 2015 Update for District Contacts for Paraeducator Issues

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), established the District Contacts for Paraprofessional 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.

National Resource Center For Paraeducators Conference Updates April 16-18, 2015 Hilton Hartford



Internet-Based ParaPro Assessment Locations

CREC—All test dates are held at:
CREC's Testing Center
Coltville Building, Room 226
34 Sequassen Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Test dates are listed on the CREC ParaPro Assessment site at www.crec.org/parapro-assessment/index.php.

EDUCATION CONNECTION

355 Goshen Rd
Litchfield, CT 06759

Internet-Based ParaPro Assessments are offered by appointment Monday - Thursday. Participants must call Foot-hills Adult Education at 1-800-300-4781, ext. 126 to schedule their exam date and pay a \$75 fee. We try our best to accommodate scheduling needs.

LEARN

44 Hatchetts Hill Road
Old Lyme, CT 06371

The Development Department proctors the Internet-Based Assessment to paraprofessional candidates as needed. For more information on how to register, please contact Yvonne Tobey at ytobey@learn.k12.ct.us or 860-434-4800, ext. 167 or register online at https://www.escweb.net/ct_learn/search.aspx (and type ParaPro Assessment in the Search box).

For more information regarding the Internet-Based ParaPro Assessment, including study materials, please visit: www.ets.org/parapro.

The National Resource Center for Paraeducators (NRCP) Conference: *Paraeducators: A Pathway to Excellence* is only a few weeks away, but the Early Bird Deadline still applies. The link to register is: <http://www.nrcpara.org/conference>. Details about the conference can be found on the Web site, including the session topics and schedule.

This conference provides attendees the choice of 55 sessions including instruction on Classroom Management, Autism, Reading and Writing, Social Skills, Technology and many more. There will also be a moderated panel discussion with Paraeducators of the Year from Connecticut and other states. On Friday, Dr. George Sugai will deliver a keynote presentation: *Positive Behavior Support: Catchin' Em Early, Positively, and Frequently*.

Due to the national conference coming to Connecticut, the State Education Resource Center (SERC) did not hold their annual conference this past fall, but will have their annual conference in the Fall of 2016.

University of Bridgeport School of Education Substitute and Paraprofessional Information Session

The University of Bridgeport is hosting information sessions for those substitute teachers and paraprofessionals (who have an undergraduate degree) interested in learning more about a *tuition-free Masters Degree*. The session will describe the University of Bridgeport School of Education's Internship Program. Sessions will be conveniently held in three regional areas (Bridgeport, Stamford and Waterbury) on the following dates from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

University of Bridgeport
Bridgeport Campus, Wednesday, March 25, 2015, and Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

University of Bridgeport,
Stamford Campus, Wednesday, April 22, 2015.

University of Bridgeport
Waterbury Campus, Thursday, April 30, 2015.

To RSVP or for more information, please contact Karen Ringwood at 203-575-2091 or Pat Phillips at 203-576-4219/paphilli@bridgeport.edu.

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Updated CSDE Paraeducator Information and Resources Page

The CSDE is in the process of updating the Paraeducator Information and Resources page to be more user friendly. The page is divided into five main areas: How to Become a Paraeducator, Connecticut Regulations and Legislation, Professional Development Opportunities and Resources, General Resources and Information, and the Anne Marie Paraeducator of the Year Program.

How to Become a Paraeducator

- NCLB requirements
- About the ParaPro Assessment
- Locations for the ParaPro Assessment

Connecticut Regulations and Legislation

- Definition of a Paraeducator
- Connecticut Paraprofessional Legislation
- School Paraprofessional Advisory Council Information
- Program Review and Investigations Committee Findings and Recommendations: 2006
- Program Review and Investigations Committee Findings and Recommendations: 2014

Professional Development Opportunities and Resources

- Capitol Region Education Council (CREC)
- National Resource Center for Paraeducators (NRCP)
- State Education Resource Center (SERC)
- University of Connecticut Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education Research and Service (UCEDD)

General Resources and Information

- American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Resources
- Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Publications
- PowerPoint Presentations

Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year

- Information about the Award
- 2016 Paraeducator of the Year Award Information Packet

State Education Resource Center (SERC) In-District/Job Embedded Professional Development for Paraeducators

This technical assistance is designed for Paraeducators and certified staff who work with students, especially students with disabilities. The goal: students with disabilities working with Paraeducators will receive appropriate instruction and related services.

For more information on the range of professional development for Paraeducators please go to: www.ctserc.org/paras.

CONTENT OPTIONS:

Roles and responsibilities in the classroom, CCS 101, What every paraeducator needs to know about an IEP, Autism, Challenging Behaviors, Math and literacy strategies, De-escalation strategies, Educational Benefit Review Process, Scientific Research-Based Interventions, Differentiated Instruction, Collaboration with teachers, Data Collection, Helping vs. Hovering.

POSSIBLE FORMATS:

Class visits/videos with reflective feedback, Content Overviews, Coaching, Presentations/Workshops, Study Groups/Book Groups, Needs Assessments, Webinars and more.

For general technical assistance on preparing your educators, please contact Anthony Brisson, Consultant at SERC via e-mail, brisson@ctserc.org or 860-632-1485, ext. 315.