



# Connecticut State Department of Education

## May 2012 Update for District Contacts for Paraprofessional Issues

### National Resource Center for Paraeducators Conference

The National Resource Center for Paraeducators (NRCP) held its 30th National Conference from March 1-3, 2012, in San Antonio, Texas. The NRCP which was founded by Anna Lou Pickett, recently changed its name from Paraprofessionals to Paraeducators, to reflect the nature of work currently performed by paras.

A State Leadership Session was held the evening of February 29 to give those participants who are engaged in activities to promote Paraeducator leadership at a variety of roles in states, an opportunity to network and share best practices. Each state was asked to highlight one major state-level accomplishment. Representatives from Connecticut shared the newly developed Paraprofessional of the Year Program and received suggestions for how to promote the program and highlight the contributions paraprofessionals make to student achievement. Other states were impressed with the work currently being done in Connecticut by the CSDE, School Paraprofessional Advisory Council, RESCs, and SERC to provide paraprofessionals with quality professional development.

Conference session topics addressed:

- Effective Teacher and Paraprofessional Collaboration
- Hands-on training designed to strengthen the job performance of paras, including sessions focused on the appropriate roles and responsibilities of paraprofessionals working with students with disabilities, understanding and reducing challenging behaviors, and assisting with data collection.
- State and local initiatives to set standards for:
  - 1.) para roles in various staffing arrangements and programs;
  - 2.) skills and knowledge required by Paras working in different levels of positions; and
  - 3.) training and professional development opportunities for paras.

PowerPoint presentations from the conference will be posted soon on the NRCP Web site: [www.nrcpara.org](http://www.nrcpara.org). The 2013 National Conference will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah in April 2013.

The Call for Papers for next year's conference will be posted on the NRCP Web site at [www.nrcpara.org](http://www.nrcpara.org) in August. If you are interested in making a presentation, or have any questions, you can call 1-435-797-7272 or write to the NRCP at: National Resource Center for Paraeducators, Utah State University, 6526 Old Main Hill, Logan, Utah 84322-6526.

**Save the Date!**



**November 14, 2012**

*SERC's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Paraprofessionals as Partners Conference*

*If you have any questions regarding this conference, feel free to contact **Stefanie Carbone, Consultant at SERC 860-632-1485 X306.***

#### **CSDE Paraprofessional Information and Resources Page**

*In This Issue*

*The CSDE maintains a website to provide resources for paraprofessionals, teachers, and administrators to understand the appropriate training, supervision, and evaluation of paraprofessionals.*

[www.ct.gov/sde/para-cali](http://www.ct.gov/sde/para-cali)

#### **The Interactive Web-based Bureau Bulletin Has Launched!**

**The CSDE Bureau of Special Education Bureau Bulletin contains information on current state and national issues in Special Education.** Please visit the new Bureau Bulletin Web site at: <http://ctspecialednews.org>.

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*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.*

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### Revisions to Connecticut Guidelines for Training and Support of Paraprofessionals

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#### **Revisions to Connecticut Guidelines for Training and Support of Paraprofessionals**

The 2008 Connecticut Guidelines for Training and Support of Paraprofessionals is currently being revised by Iris White, Education Consultant, with the assistance of the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council. The revisions will build on the content of previous editions of the guidelines and will include additional resource materials that have been developed over the past three years, including the Paraprofessionals and SRBI Bulletin, SERC LRE Newsletter, and the Paraprofessional Brief: English Language Learners. It is anticipated that the revised document will be posted on the CSDE Web site this fall at: [http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/curriculum/cali/Connecticut\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_Training\\_and\\_Support\\_of\\_Paraprofessionals.pdf](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/curriculum/cali/Connecticut_Guidelines_for_Training_and_Support_of_Paraprofessionals.pdf)

**A Problem-Solving Exercise: Below is another a case study and discussion questions to facilitate discussion among teachers, paraprofessionals and administrators.**

While sitting at his desk working on his five spelling words, Jose begins to play with his pencil. The paraprofessional in the class walks over to Jose and demands that he get back to work. Jose pushes his work aside and puts his hands into his pockets, as he stares into space. Again, the paraprofessional insists that Jose get back to work. Jose takes his work and tears it in half and begins screaming at the paraprofessional to leave him alone. After the teacher returns to the classroom she finds Jose sitting alone in the back of the room whimpering. The paraprofessional tells her that she doesn't know what his problem is and that he just started throwing a tantrum. When Jose finally calms, down, the teacher speaks with him regarding the incident and provides Jose with another chance to work on his spelling.

1. What different approach could the paraprofessional have used?
2. Do you agree with how the teacher handle the situation? Why or why not?
3. What professional development training might be helpful to the paraprofessional?
4. Do you think this type of incident has happened before? Why do you think so?

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