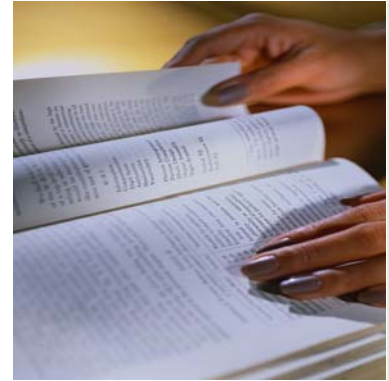


OCTOBER 2012 UPDATE FOR DISTRICT

CONTACTS FOR PARAPROFESSIONAL ISSUES

Paraprofessional Requirements Under No Child Left Behind

On May 29, 2012, Governor Dannel P. Malloy and United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced that Connecticut's application for a waiver from certain mandates imposed by the 2001 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act had been approved. The waiver, in part, allows Connecticut to have greater flexibility with Federal Title I dollars and create a system that more accurately measures student achievement across all levels.



The granting of this waiver **does not change the Title I, Part A Paraprofessional Requirements that were part of the NCLB Act of 2001.**

This is a reminder that paraprofessionals working in Title I funded programs should meet the qualifications listed below as required in the NCLB Act of 2001. The requirements apply to paraprofessionals paid with Title I funds who provide instructional support in Title I targeted assistance schools and to all paraprofessionals with instructional duties in Title I schoolwide program schools, regardless of funding source. These include Title I instructional paraprofessionals who provide services to private school children and to preschool children.

All Title I paraprofessionals must have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent General Educational Development (GED).

In addition, Title I paraprofessionals must meet one of the following requirements:

- have two years of college credit; or
- hold an associate's (or higher) degree; or
- pass a State Board of Education adopted paraprofessional assessment which assesses content knowledge in mathematics, reading and writing and an understanding of how to assist in the instruction of those topics (Para Pro Assessment). The second page of this newsletter lists the dates for the paper and pencil administration of the ParaPro Assessment.

Paraprofessionals working primarily as translators or solely on parental involvement activities must have a high school diploma or GED, but do not have to meet the other requirements. Individuals who work solely in non instructional roles, such as those who provide personal care services, perform clerical duties, work in food services, cafeteria or playground supervision, and provide non instructional computer assistance are not considered paraprofessionals under NCLB.

For more information regarding these requirements for paraprofessionals, please log onto the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Paraprofessional Information and Resources page: www.ct.gov/sde/para-cali. or contact Iris White, Education Consultant, 860-713-6794 or by e-mail: iris.white@ct.gov.

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.



District Spotlight: Cooperative Educational Services (CES)



CES used the following process to select their District Paraprofessional of the Year:

Used their Teacher of the Year Selection Committee to oversee the process since they already had a system in place. Here is how it worked:

March 29, 2012, – Memo from Paraprofessional/Teacher of the Year Committee to all staff outlining application criteria and providing the application. The memo outlines the criteria right from the CSDE criteria: This person should be one who has demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication in the performance of his/her job, thereby earning them the respect and admiration of students, teachers, administrators, coworkers, and parents. Staff was asked to include both, their name and the nominee's name, department, and current classroom assignment (both certified staff and paraprofessionals were eligible to submit *nominations*). Staff had to include three characteristics their nominee possesses that make him/her an effective paraprofessional.

April 13, 2012, Deadline for applications to the committee. Selection committee selected finalists based on the number of votes received.

Committee members reviewed applications and interviewed applicants.

Committee recommended a finalist to the Executive Director for final decision.

For more information regarding CES's process for identifying District Paraprofessional of the Year, please contact, Chris LaBelle, Associate Executive Director, Director-Six to Six Interdistrict Magnet School, 203-365-8200, labellec@ces.k12.ct.us.

2012-2013 ETS ParaPro Assessment Dates-Paper and Pencil

Location	9/22/12	11/3/12	1/26/13	4/13/13	6/8/13	7/20/13
Bridgeport, Bassick High School	X				X	X
Danbury, Danbury High School	X					
Milford, Law High School				X	X	X
Naugatuck, Naugatuck High School	X	X	X	X	X	X
New Haven, Yale University	X	X	X	X	X	X
Storrs, University of Connecticut						X
West Hartford, University of Hartford			X		X	X
West Haven, University of New Haven			X	X	X	X

Registration forms can be downloaded from the ETS Web site: www.ets.org/parapro. The registration bulletin is free of charge. You must use the original registration form. **NO PHOTOCOPIES.** LEARN Regional Educational Service Center also proctors the Internet Based ParaPro Assessment on an as needed basis. For more information, please contact Irma Wilhelm at iwilhelm@learn.k12.ct.us.



SERC's 17th Annual Statewide Paraprofessionals as Partners Conference



Mission: Possible, Paraprofessionals Are Always on the Job

November 14, 2012

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cromwell

8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

This annual conference is an opportunity for paraprofessionals to engage in professional development on a variety of topics while networking with colleagues. This year's conference with the theme "Mission: Possible, Paraprofessionals are always on the job" incorporates breakout sessions that will develop the skills of paraprofessionals to increase their effectiveness as educational partners with general and special education teachers, as well as with student support services professionals, administrators, and families.

Breakout Session Topics: *Understanding Challenging Behaviors*

Literacy for Students Who Can't (or Won't) Sit Still

Boys and Girls: Differences that Impact Learning

Understanding Autism: The Role of the Instructional Facilitator

Differentiating Instruction for Small Groups of Students

IEPs: What Every Paraprofessional Needs to Know

Paraprofessionals: What Administrators Need to Know (A.M. only)

Registration is \$85 per person

AM Administrator Special Session & Rate:

\$45.00 includes Lunch

Registration form is available at: <http://ctserc.org/conferences/2012/paras%20flyer%202012.pdf>

Please direct content questions to Heather Dawes, Education Services Specialist, at dawes@ctserc.org or 860-632-1485, ext. 263 and registration questions to Yolanta Garcia, Senior Project Assistant, at Garcia@ctserc.org or 860-632-1485, ext. 264.

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