

April 2014 Update for District Contacts for Paraeducator Issues

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.

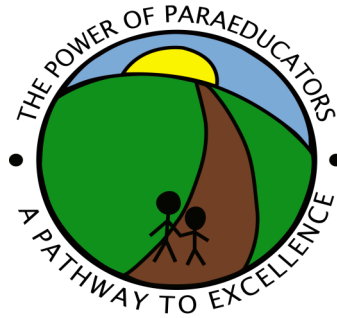
Role of the District Contact for Paraeducator Issues

Each year, the CSDE asks each superintendent of schools to identify a “contact person” regarding paraeducator issues, with whom the CSDE can communicate. The purpose of establishing this contact is to identify a single point of entry for dissemination of professional development and other valuable information. This information may include:

- Personnel development activities
- Policy updates
- Resource availability
- Information exchange and data gathering regarding best practices; and networking opportunities across districts on paraeducators and effective practices.

The CSDE asks that the monthly newsletter be disseminated to all paraeducators, teachers, and administrators throughout the district to clarify the roles of paraeducators and to ensure their appropriate training and supervision.

National Resource Center for Paraeducators Conference Coming to Hartford! April 16-18, 2015



“The Power of Paraeducators: A Pathway to Excellence”

The National Resource Center for Paraeducators (NRCP) is holding its 32nd annual conference in Hartford, Connecticut, April 16-18, 2015. This is the second time this conference will be held in Hartford. The first time was in April of 2008.

For over three decades, this conference has responded to the professional development needs of paraeducators and provided the opportunity to bring together a broad range of audiences. The CSDE and the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council will collaborate with the NRCP to plan this conference.

This conference will feature the “National Leadership” session which will be open to people engaged in activities to promote paraeducator leadership at a variety of levels in states, (e.g., state staff; state or regional training and TA staff; higher education personnel; persons promoting leadership through involvement in various state activities, labor organizations, committees, advisory groups, etc.).

Further information will be posted on the NRCP website at www.nrpara.org and the CSDE Paraeducator Information and Resources page: www.ct.gov/sde/para-cali.

This information will include a CALL FOR PAPERS for presenters to facilitate sessions.

If any questions, please contact:

Iris White, Education Consultant
Connecticut State Department of Education
Telephone: 860-713-6794
E-mail: iris.white@ct.gov

The State of Connecticut Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, mental disorder, past or present history of mental disability, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction. Inquiries regarding the Connecticut State Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Levy Gillespie, Equal Employment Opportunity Director, Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, Connecticut State Department of Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457, 860-807-2071. Levy.Gillespie@ct.gov.

April 2014 Update for District Contacts for Paraeducator Issues

Governor's Proclamation for Paraprofessional Appreciation Day

By His Excellency Dannel P. Malloy, Governor: an Official Statement

WHEREAS, Connecticut is home to thousands of paraprofessionals who provide services in multiple settings within a school, including instructional support, student activities, and numerous tasks that contribute to educational success; and

WHEREAS, the support and services provided by paraprofessionals are integral to student achievement and effective Connecticut schools; and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut and the Connecticut State Department of Education are committed to excellence in education and recognize the important role paraprofessionals play in ensuring educational success; now

THEREFORE, I, Dannel P. Malloy, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby proclaim April 2, 2014 as

PARAPROFESSIONAL APPRECIATION DAY in the State of Connecticut.

Internet-Based ParaPro Assessment Offered at LEARN

LEARN is offering the Internet-Based ParaPro Assessment on the following dates:

- Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 7, 2014, 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Registration Fee: \$75.00
- Location: LEARN at Southwest Computer Lab, 44 Hatchetts Hill Road, Old Lyme, CT.

Registration Link: http://www.escweb.net/ct_learn/catalog/event.aspx?mode=subject&order=asc&scheduled=1&id=349&eventId=45298&referrer=browse.aspx.

Further Information: Please contact Irma Wilhelm by phone: 860-434-4800 ext. 170 or via e-mail at: iwilhelm@learn.k12.ct.us.