


THE COMPASS...Helping Paraprofessionals Navigate the Profession



THE COMPASS is a field-tested, comprehensive job-embedded professional development curriculum developed specifically for paraprofessionals. A series of modules aligned with National Paraprofessional Standards are designed to enhance the paraprofessional's skills in working with students in educational settings. **Supporting paraprofessionals with quality professional development has never been easier or more flexible!**

THE COMPASS curriculum and training is offered in a variety of ways to ensure that all paraprofessionals have access to this relevant information.

- Option 1:** CREC can come to your school or district and provide professional development to your paraprofessionals on any of **THE COMPASS** modules
- Option 2:** CREC can provide training to districts and agencies who would like to build capacity to do their own training through a "train the trainer" format. Training can be on any of the **THE COMPASS** modules and would include content information and presentation strategies
- Option 3:** Districts, Education Service Agencies, and State Departments of Education can purchase **THE COMPASS** modules and conduct the training themselves
- Option 4:** **THE COMPASS** modules have been modified and approved for collegiate credits. These courses are available at CREC or we can come to your district or agency and provide the courses on-site.
- Option 5:** Five **COMPASS** courses will be available *online* nationally through Charter Oak State College in Spring 2011 and students who successfully pass all coursework will receive collegiate credits and a *paraprofessional certificate* from Charter Oak.

Whether you're looking to support one paraprofessional or your entire paraprofessional workforce, CREC has a solution for you. Contact Peg MacDonald at 860-524-4037 or mmacdonald@crec.org or Donna Morelli at dmorelli@crec.org 860-371-1226 to learn more.

BASIC MODULES

Roles & Responsibilities

Understand the roles and responsibilities of the paraprofessional, teacher, and administrator as partners of an educational team. Strategies to work effectively as a member of the instructional team are provided.

Communications

Explore various aspects of collaboration and communication with students and adults, including relationship building and effective problem solving.

Managing Behaviors

Learn strategies for managing and supporting students in small and large groups and one-to-one learning situations. Emphasis on proactive environmental and instructional supports and behavioral record keeping.

Ethics and Legal Issues

Understand current information on the special education laws and regulations and school-based practices. Review Individualized Education Plan components and procedures.

Instructional Strategies

Practice research-based strategies to help students achieve. Collaboration and communication skills will enable the paraprofessional to be an effective, contributing member of the instructional team

Customized Modules

Let CREC work with you to customize a paraprofessional module that can address your district's unique training needs.

FEEDBACK FROM PARAPROFESSIONALS



“Great learning strategies for working with various levels of reading...lots of info to take back to the classroom and use!” “Instructor was excellent, radiating professionalism, competency and the spirit of making a contribution. I really learned a lot of things I was not aware of. I would have gladly stayed longer or attended another session.” “Excellent information on social story strategy to assist students with autism and how to use it in the classroom. Learned positive techniques to replace negative ones...”

ADVANCED MODULES

Exceptional Learners

Gain knowledge about the many types of disabilities and learn behavioral and instructional supports for working with special needs students. Common terms and acronyms of the special education process are also identified.

Teaching Students with Autism

Learn and apply strategies that enhance social, behavioral, and communication skills in students with autism. Social stories and other techniques are provided.

Creating Independent Learners

Improve student independence by learning how to assess a student’s abilities, analyze tasks, and fade instruction to promote student independence.

Advanced Instructional Strategies

Practice research-based strategies to provide accommodations and modifications to help students achieve independence in reading, writing, and studying. Learn and apply critical instructional behaviors at the start, during, and after a lesson

Assistive Technology to Support Student Learning

Gain an understanding of assistive technology and how to utilize a variety of assistive technology tools used to promote student independence and learning in the school setting. Learn about the continuum of low to high-tech assistive technology and its applications.

Teaching English Language Learners

Understand the roles, responsibilities, and skills required of the paraprofessional who works with students who are English Language Learners? Become aware of and practice skills to teach social language and academic language through speaking/listening/reading and writing.

Advanced Behavioral Strategies

Learn and practice behavior strategies for effectively working with challenging student behavior. Utilize a collaborative approach and Response to Intervention model to decrease development of new behavior problems, prevent worsening of existing problems, eliminate triggers through redesign learning/teaching environment, and teach, monitor, & acknowledge pro-social behavior.

Job Coaching

Understand the roles, responsibilities, and skills required of the paraprofessional who is working with students in a vocational setting.

Supporting Literacy Instruction

Explore commonly used techniques and strategies that support reading development in students. Specific techniques that are commonly used in effective reading instruction are highlighted.

Health and Wellness for the Effective Paraprofessional

Explore the physical, emotional, spiritual and environmental aspects. Create a wellness “toolbox” for paraprofessionals and students. Take action and become a model for students by creating your own personal wellness plan.

Supporting Math Instruction

Support students as they become mathematicians by understanding how we learn math, procedures for math, and explore specific math pedagogy including fact fluency and problem-solving strategies.

For more information please contact Donna Morelli at 860-371-1226 or e-mail dmorelli@crec.org