



ParaEducators of Kentucky

PEK is a grant-funded project located at the Human Development Institute, University of Kentucky. Funded by the Kentucky Department of Education, Divisions of Exceptional Children Services and Federal Programs, PEK develops and provides the following for paraeducators:

- On-site professional development
- On-line professional development materials
- Technical assistance to local school districts related to paraeducators



Go to <http://www.ihdi.uky.edu/pek/> to register for the online PD modules.

PEK

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ParaEducators of Kentucky

Professional Development Opportunities for Paraeducators



Paraeducators (Paras)

“Those assigned to assist and support the teacher and/or students and serve along side school professionals providing instructional and related services to students, like their counterparts paralegals and paramedics in law and medicine.” Pickett, 1989

Professional Development (PD)

“The school/district provides research-based results driven professional development opportunities for staff . . . in order to improve teaching and learning.” KY’s SISI

**Paras + PD =
SUCCESS FOR
KENTUCKY’S STUDENTS**

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARAEDUCATORS PROVIDED BY PARAEDUCATORS OF KENTUCKY



Trained paraeducators result in improved student performance

Why Train Paraeducators?

According to the PAR²A Center, there are several compelling reasons for paraeducators to be provided effective professional development:

- **Trained Paraeducators Improve Student Outcomes** – Results include engagement in academics, interaction with others, independence, and improved behavior
- **Paraeducators Provide Instructional Support** – Support includes instructional strategies, behavior management, and use of technology
- **Paraeducators Work with Students with Challenging Needs** – High achievement standards have increased need for intensive support for students

ON-SITE PD

Professional development can be designed to fit specific needs of local school districts. On-site PD usually addresses the following topics:

- Teamwork skills (roles and responsibilities, ethical issues, and communication and problem-solving skills)
- Instructional support
- Student behavior strategies
- Information about disabilities; health-related procedures; additional job coach skills, and assistive technology

Techniques include brief lectures, role-plays, handouts, discussion, and small group activities. The PD is intended to help paraeducators be as effective as possible in their roles of working with students. Content provided in the PD is intended to help paraeducators meet Kentucky's Paraeducator Standards and Competencies.



Paraeducators provide instructional support, often to students with challenging needs

ON-LINE PD

Currently available at **no cost to paraeducators and local school districts**, on-line PD modules provide lessons and activities that focus on a particular topic related to Kentucky's Paraeducator Standards and Competencies. They cover:

- Roles and responsibilities of paraeducators
- Maintaining safe and supportive instructional environment
- Strategies that enhance learning
- Methods used to monitor student progress
- Student behavior strategies
- Professional and ethical practices
- Community-based job coach

A facilitator is available to assist with the module content. A paraeducator may receive PD hours for each module successfully completed.

Contact Barbara Locker, PEK, at 859-519-7374 or blocker@uky.edu to schedule on-site PD and/or for additional information about the on-line PD modules. Also, visit the PEK website at <http://www.ihdi.uky.edu/pek/>

Don't delay! There is no cost to the district or the paraeducator.