

From: pennlinkadm
"ED, Special Ed Resource Acct" <ra-pdespecial@state.pa.us>
October 1, 2008 8:22:45 AM
Subject: Fwd: Paraprofessional Requirements Under Revised Chapter 14
To: Larry O'Shea Thomas Tano Candy Dunn Toni Lozar
Cc: Yvonne Pinkney Nadine Jeney

----- Original Message -----

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September 30, 2008

SUBJECT: Paraprofessional Requirements Under Revised Chapter 14

TO: School District Superintendents
Charter School Chief Executive Officers
Approved Private School Presidents
Intermediate Unit Executive Directors
Intermediate Unit Special Education Directors
College and University Presidents

FROM: John J. Tommasini
Director
Bureau of Special Education

Effective July 1, 2008, the Pennsylvania State Board of Education issued the revised Chapter 14: Special Education Services and Programs. Chapter 14 contains new requirements for paraprofessionals who support students receiving special education services. This Penn*Link will address the requirements as well as identify guidance and support to assist local education agencies (LEAs) and paraprofessionals in meeting these requirements.

CHAPTER 14 REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFIED STATUS

Chapter 14 requires that all special education instructional paraprofessionals must meet ONE of the following qualifications effective July 1, 2010:

- (i) Have completed at least two years of postsecondary study,
- (ii) Possess an associates degree or higher, OR
- (iii) Meet a rigorous standard of quality as documented through a state or local assessment.

CHAPTER 14 REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTINUING STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Effective July 1, 2008:

- All instructional paraprofessionals shall provide evidence of 20 hours of staff development related to their assignment.
- All personal care assistants providing one-to-one support and assistance to a student shall also provide evidence of 20 hours of staff development activities related to their assignment each school year.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP LEAS MEET CHAPTER 14 REQUIREMENTS

In order to assist LEAs in meeting both the qualified status and the staff development requirements, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (Department) is providing training for paraprofessionals at no charge. The staff development can be used to meet the requirement for 20 hours of training and also to address the rigorous standard of quality. This training is linked directly to the Credential of Competency for Special Education Paraeducators in Pennsylvania. The Credential is available from the Department's Bureau of Special Education. It is based on ten performance-based standards that were identified by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) in "What Every Special Educator Must Know", 4th edition, 2000. They include skills and knowledge in the areas of:

- Standard #1 Foundations of Special Education

- Standard #2 Development and Characteristics of Learners
- Standard #3 Individual Learning Differences
- Standard #4 Instructional Strategies
- Standard #5 Learning Environments and Social Interactions
- Standard #6 Language
- Standard #7 Instructional Planning
- Standard #8 Assessment
- Standard #9 Professional and Ethical Practice
- Standard #10 Collaboration

You can access the Credential of Competency Assessment Checklist on the PaTTAN website at www.pattan.net. It is located on the Paraeducator webpage under the 'Supporting Students' category.

The Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) is offering a 2008-2009 afterschool training series. These sessions will address Standards 6-10 and are offered at multiple sites across the Commonwealth. The schedule is as follows:

October 16, 2008	Standard #6	Language
November 13, 2008	Standard #7	Instructional Planning
February 11, 2009	Standard #8	Assessment
March 10, 2009	Standard #9	Professional and Ethical Practice
April 28, 2009	Standard #10	Collaboration

Registration for these sessions can be completed on the PaTTAN website. Standards 1 through 5, which were presented in last year's afterschool training series, will be available around mid-October as multimedia training video presentations that are synchronized with text. You will be able to access them at a mini-site on the PaTTAN website and will be accessible from personal computers. A CourseWhere broadcast email will be sent out when the site is up and running.

The training materials for all paraeducator trainings are posted on the paraeducator page of the PaTTAN website and include the Powerpoint presentations and any supporting handouts that were used in the afterschool videoconference sessions. To access the materials, go to the PaTTAN website at www.pattan.net. Click on the "Paraeducators" section under 'Supporting Students'. The paraeducator page can then be navigated by clicking on the buttons on the left-hand side of the page.

If you have questions about the trainings, please contact Becky Wood at bwood@pattan.net.

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW REQUIREMENTS

The Department has issued Question and Answers regarding the Chapter 14 Paraprofessional Requirements. The FAQs may be found on the paraeducator page of the PaTTAN website. This information will assist you with the implementation of the Chapter 14 requirements for paraprofessionals. If you have further questions about the requirements, you may email questions to chapter14@pattan.net.

Penn*Link

--

This email was Anti Virus checked by Astaro Security Gateway. <http://www.astaro.com>