



Paraeducator Work Group – Parent Survey

Sponsored by the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins University Center for Technology in Education

The purpose of this survey is to identify current practices throughout the state and assess local school system, public agency, and stakeholder needs in order to develop recommendations for action planning.

This questionnaire pertains to your knowledge of those paid, non-certified instructional support staff, also known as "paraeducators," who assist teachers, schools, and students (particularly those students with disabilities). While the title "paraeducator" is not standard across the state, for simplicity these assistants will be called "**paraeducators**" in this survey. "**Learning environment**" refers to the classroom or other settings where children/students receive support from paraeducators. Additionally, "**school**" refers not only to K-12 schools, but also other public agencies and Local Infants and Toddlers programs.

1) **Please check the box that indicates your child's local school system or public agency.**

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allegany | <input type="checkbox"/> Anne Arundel | <input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore County | <input type="checkbox"/> Calvert | <input type="checkbox"/> Caroline |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carroll | <input type="checkbox"/> Cecil | <input type="checkbox"/> Charles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dorchester | <input type="checkbox"/> Frederick | <input type="checkbox"/> Garrett |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harford | <input type="checkbox"/> Howard | <input type="checkbox"/> Kent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Montgomery | <input type="checkbox"/> Prince George's | <input type="checkbox"/> Queen Anne's |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Somerset | <input type="checkbox"/> St. Mary's | <input type="checkbox"/> Talbot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> Wicomico | <input type="checkbox"/> Worcester |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maryland School for the Blind | <input type="checkbox"/> Maryland School for the Deaf | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RICA/Catonsville Educational Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Justice Educational Programs | |

2) **Please indicate the type of program or school level where your child/children attend. (Check all that apply.)**

- | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural environment
(i.e., home school) | <input type="checkbox"/> Infants and toddlers | <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary | <input type="checkbox"/> Middle | <input type="checkbox"/> High |

3) **Which of these titles or names are used to describe paraeducators in your child's learning environment? (Check all that apply.)**

- Paraeducator
 - Paraprofessional
 - Teacher's Aide/Assistant
 - Assistant Teacher (AT)
 - Intervener
 - IEP Aide
 - Inclusion Helper
 - Student Mentor
 - Educational Assistant
 - Instructional Assistant
 - Parent Helper
 - Other (please specify): _____
-

4) **In which of the following programs does at least one paraeducator assist your child? (Check all that apply.)**

- General/regular education classroom
 - Bilingual/ESL program
 - Self-contained special education classroom
 - Special education resource room
 - Speech/language pathology
 - Physical/occupational therapy
 - Title I or other reading program
 - Transition, vocational training, or in the community
 - Other (please specify): _____
-

5) **With which of the following *student-assistance* tasks do paraeducators assist your child? (Check all that apply.)**

- Positioning, turning, transferring or mobility in general
 - Using specialized equipment
 - Daily living activities (e.g., dressing, eating, toileting)
 - Administering medication
 - Providing respiratory care (e.g., nebulizers, tracheotomy tubes, suctioning)
 - During/after seizures
 - Other (please specify): _____
-

6) **With which of the following *tasks performed outside the learning environment* do paraeducators assist your child? (Check all that apply.)**

- Provide my family with information about community resources
- Instruct my child in community settings (e.g., supported employment, school to career, vocational programs)
- Supervise my child while on the playground
- Supervise my child in the hall or in the bus loading zone
- Supervise my child in the cafeteria
- Supervise my child during therapy

Other (please specify): _____

7) **With which of the following *technology-oriented tasks* do paraeducators assist your child? (Check all that apply.)**

- Instruct in the use of computers
- Program or set up personal communications systems
- Provide therapeutic services developed by an occupational therapist or a physical therapist
- Provide speech therapy services developed by a speech language pathologist
- Check/maintain equipment or assistive devices (e.g., hearing aids, walkers)
- Data entry

Other (please specify): _____

8) **To your knowledge, with which of the following *instructional/behavioral tasks* do paraeducators assist your child? (Check all that apply.)**

- Assist in the design and preparation of instructional materials
- Assist with lesson and unit planning
- Assist with specialized communication (e.g., Braille, American Sign Language)
- Modify lessons (developed by teachers) to meet the needs of individual students during class
- Score classroom tests/assignments
- Administer standardized tests (e.g., MSPAP, CTBS)
- Record student grades
- Observe/record information about student performance and behavior
- Teach social skills to students
- Use behavior support systems designed by the teacher or a team of educators

Other (please specify): _____

9) **Of the following, which three would you recommend most to enrich the services provided to your child by paraeducators? (Please select up to three [3] options.)**

- Training in the use/modification of instructional materials
- Training in instructional strategies (i.e., better ways to teach)
- Training to develop an understanding of specific disabilities
- Training in behavior support and teaching social skills
- Training in the implementation of my child's Individualized Education Program/Individual Family Services Plan (IEP/IFSP)

Other (please specify): _____

10) **With what other services would you like paraeducators to assist your child (if any)? (Use the space below to write any suggestions you might have.)**

11) **Do paraeducators in your child's school or program have access to your child's IEP/IFSP?**

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

12) **During the most recent school year (2000-2001), approximately how many paraeducators worked with your child? (Please write in the number on the line below.)**

_____ paraeducators

13) **Has this affected the quality of services (as defined in your child's IEP/IFSP) provided to your child?**

- Yes
- No

14) Please use the space below to explain your response to Question 13 above.

15) Over the entire time your child has worked with paraeducators, has the change in paraeducator from time to time affected the service provided to your child?

- Yes
- No

16) Please use the space below to explain your response to Question 15 above.

17) Which of the following do you believe should be the minimum qualifications for someone to be hired as a paraeducator? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma/G.E.D. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some college-level training | <input type="checkbox"/> Certain number of years experience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate's degree | <input type="checkbox"/> A skills assessment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's degree | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |

18) Do you think credentialing (certification/training) should be required of paraeducators?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Thank you for your help!

Please give this survey to the person who asked you to fill it out, OR you can:

Mail it to:

Paraeducator Work Group
c/o Center for Technology in Education
6740 Alexander Bell Drive / Suite 302
Columbia, MD 21046

Fax it to:

410-312-3868
Attn: Paraeducator Work Group