How Paraeducators are Helping Students Succeed in a Time of Crisis

Overview
Paraeducators, like other education support professionals (ESPs), are stepping up and going above and beyond to help students succeed socially, emotionally, and academically during the COVID-19 crisis. Working in collaboration with teachers, specialized instructional support personnel (SISP), and other related service providers, paraeducators are providing instructional and non-instructional support to students, including our most vulnerable ones, at a time when it is needed most.

15 Ways Paraeducators Are Supporting Students Socially, Emotionally, and Academically

Paraeducators are:
1. Collaborating and planning with teachers, SISP, and other related service providers through virtual meetings and phone calls.
2. Providing academic and behavioral support to individual students, small groups, and entire classes through digital platforms, telephone, email, and texting.
3. Providing input and ideas regarding individual student needs.
4. Creating audio or visual recordings necessary to supplement distance learning.
5. Reading to students over the phone or through a live or recorded video (e.g., hosting online story hours).
6. Holding virtual office hours to answer student and parent questions about assignments and homework.
7. Supporting English language learner (ELL) students and families. They are translating for ELL students and their parents/guardians through text messaging and phone calls answering questions and offering support.
8. Preparing and delivering instructional packets, materials, and technology devices to students and troubleshooting technology issues with online learning.
9. Checking in with students regularly to meet their social, emotional, and academic needs. Checking on their well-being (e.g., asking if they are ok, if they are feeling well, how their weekend was).
10. Sending students cards, gifts and notes in the mail to offer words of encouragement and comfort.
11. Staying connected with parents through phone, text, email, classroom message boards, and other digital platforms to offer support and direct them to available resources.
12. Documenting student progress and interactions with students, parents, and other staff.
13. Assisting with the delivery or distribution of meals to students.
14. Ensuring their voice is heard and they are at the table when district and statewide plans are being developed for distance learning.
15. Participating in professional development to enhance their skills and knowledge so they better support students and their families, teachers, and other members of the educational team.

**We want to hear from you!** How are you supporting students during this time of social distancing? What innovative or creative ways are you helping students succeed socially, emotionally, and academically? Share your story and best practices at esp.program@nea.org.

**Additional Resources**
- NEA ESP Quality - [www.nea.org/esp](http://www.nea.org/esp)
- NEA Webinars - [http://nea.org/esppwebinars](http://nea.org/esppwebinars)
- NEA Micro-credentials - [https://nea.certificationbank.com/NEA/Stack_Library](https://nea.certificationbank.com/NEA/Stack_Library)