

Request for Presenters: Empowered Paraprofessionals

Purpose

The Vermont Agency of Education is seeking presenters of qualified individuals to provide workshops, trainings, or presentations to paraprofessionals as part of Empowered Paraprofessionals in central Vermont on April 25, 2020.

Paraprofessionals are essential members of the educational support team and play a key role in ensuring successful support and services to students. As the needs of students are becoming more complex, the skills, knowledge, and roles of paraprofessionals are expanding.

Empowered Paraprofessionals is a one-day conference designed to give paraprofessionals opportunities to gain or improve knowledge and skills important to their position, job performance, and career growth. It is targeted to provide paraprofessionals with information that will enhance their role and members of the educational team and practical information regarding educational methods and resources that may be used in a variety of education settings.

During this one-day conference, participants may engage in a key-note address, specific breakout sessions, small or whole group interactive learning.

The title “paraprofessional” will be used for this training and accompanying material, related titles may vary by school district and include paraeducators, teacher aide, personal care assistant and instructional assistant etc.

Agency of Education Mission

The Agency of Education implements state and federal laws, policies, and regulations to ensure all Vermont learners have equitable access to high-quality learning opportunities. The Agency accomplishes this mission through the provision of its leadership, support, and oversight of Vermont’s public education system.

Special Education Vision

Our team, together with all stakeholders, ensures access opportunity, and equity by providing solution-based oversight, leadership and support to build capacity and improve student outcomes.

Training Topics

Possible training topics includes but not limited to:

- Inclusive practices in the classroom
- Specially designed instruction
- Understanding characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Understanding characteristics of Emotional Disturbance
- Instruction strategies for students with Learning Disabilities

- Effective communication and collaboration
- Dealing with student conflict
- Reducing challenging behaviors
- Data literacy to support student achievement
- Supporting students through Flexible Pathways
- Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements and Personalized Learning Plans for students on IEPs
- Supporting students taking the Alternate Assessment
- How MTSS will benefit students with disabilities

Presenter Proposal Process

A successful proposal for a presentation or workshop will include:

Name(s) of presenter(s):

Experience of presenter(s):

Resume(s)

Title of training/workshop:

Description of training/workshop:

Key deliverables and learning objectives for participants:

Timing and Mode of delivery:

Directions for Application, Submission and Selection Process

Please complete the “Empowered Paraprofessionals Presenter Application Form” including presenter(s), workshop/presentation and contact information. Please attach your resume along with the “Empowered Paraprofessionals Presenter Application Form”. Proposals shall be delivered via e-mail attachment (Microsoft Word or PDF document) and shall arrive in the email in-box of Ana Kolbach, ana.kolbach@vermont.gov no later than March 2, 2020.

Criteria for Selection

Selection of proposed workshop or trainings will be scored on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest) with a total possible score of 55 using the scoring rubric in the “Selection of Presenters” document. Selected presenters will receive a certificate of recognition and professional development hours. Neither honoraria nor expenses are provided to presenters.

Contact Information

If you have questions about this document or would like additional information, please contact:

Ana Kolbach, Special Education, at ana.kolbach@vermont.gov or 802-828-2569