

The Role of the Paraprofessional

Under the guidance and supervision of special educators, paraprofessionals are an essential part of the special education team in delivering individual services and playing an increasingly prominent role in the support of instruction of individuals with exceptionalities at all ages.

Many special education paraeducators...	Traditional Classroom	Virtual Classroom
Implement team-based assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May circulate around the room to keep students on-task, restate directions or re-teach concepts • May work with students individually or in a small group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May circulate by observing the chat from students around the virtual classroom to keep students on-task, restate directions or re-teach concepts. • May work with students individually or in a small group, in an approved chat, or breakout room
Build and maintain effective communication and relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follows school, and districts, communication and relationship policies • Maintains appropriate student/professional relationship • Provides positive praise, or feedback, on assignments or behavior in all school settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follows school, and districts, communication and relationship virtual communication policies • Maintains appropriate student/professional relationship • Provides positive praise, or feedback, on assignments or behavior in all school virtual settings • Is familiar with ways to communicate with students and families virtually through the school's learning management system (LMS), communication apps and platforms.
Maintain student-centered, supportive environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works collaboratively with classroom teacher to support classroom rules and expectations • Provides supports to students by restating directions, reteaching concepts or providing praise and feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works collaboratively with classroom teacher to support virtual classroom rules and expectations by observing student chat • Provides supports to students by restating directions, reteaching concepts or providing praise and feedback in a virtual classroom or breakout room
Organize learning experiences for students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May work with students individually or in a small group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May work with students individually or in a small group, in an approved chat, or breakout room

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May provide students with individual supports as stated in their IEP • Provides supports at the direction of the teacher and related service providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May provide students with individual supports as stated in their IEP • Provides supports at the direction of the teacher and related service providers through the learning management system (LMS)
Implement lessons initiated by the teacher or related services personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works collaboratively with teacher and related services personnel to understand the concepts of the lesson and appropriate adaptations and supports for the student • May circulate around the room to keep students on-task, restate directions or re-teach concepts • May work with students individually or in a small group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works collaboratively with teacher and related services personnel to understand the concepts of the lesson and appropriate adaptations and supports for the student • May circulate by observing the student chat around the virtual classroom to keep students on-task, restate directions or re-teach concepts • May work with students individually or in a small group, in an approved chat, or breakout, room
Assess student needs and progress under teacher direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports ongoing assessment of students • Supports progress monitoring • Provides observations to the teacher and related services personnel • Tracks data, as directed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports ongoing virtual assessment of students • Supports virtual progress monitoring in an approved chat, or breakout, room • Provides virtual/chat observations to the teacher and related services personnel • Keeps track of data in LMS, App or SIM (Student Information System), as directed
Maintain a safe learning environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knows, follows and reinforces, district and school policies, rules and expectations • Knows, follows and reinforces classroom rules and expectations • Maintains appropriate student/professional relationship • Provides positive praise, or feedback, on assignments or behavior in all school settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knows, follows and reinforces, district and school virtual policies, rules and expectations • Knows, follows and reinforces virtual classroom rules and expectations • Maintains appropriate virtual student/professional relationship • Provides positive praise, or feedback, on assignments or behavior in all virtual school settings

<p><i>Assist in the instructional process and communicating with the teacher their perceptions of student progress and needs</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works collaboratively with teacher and related services personnel to understand the concepts of the lesson and appropriate adaptations and supports for the student • May circulate around the room to keep students on-task, restate directions or re-teach concepts • May work with students individually or in a small group • Supports progress monitoring • Provides observations to the teacher and related services personnel • Tracks data, as directed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works collaboratively with teacher and related services personnel to understand the concepts of the lesson and appropriate virtual adaptations and supports for the student • May circulate around by observation of student chat in the virtual classroom to keep students on-task, restate directions or re-teach concepts • May work with students individually or in a small group, in an approved chat, or breakout room • Supports progress monitoring in an approved chat, or breakout room • Provides virtual/chat observations to the teacher and related services personnel • Tracks data LMS, App or SIM (Student Information System), as directed
<p><i>Participate in training to develop their knowledge and skills to become more effective paraeducators</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works collaboratively with teacher and related services personnel to understand the concepts of the lesson and appropriate adaptations and supports for the student • Seeks out appropriate professional development to support their work • Stays knowledgeable on current best practices and supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works collaboratively with teacher and related services personnel to understand the concepts of the lesson and appropriate virtual adaptations and supports for the student • Seeks out appropriate virtual professional development to support their work • Stays knowledgeable on current best practices and supports for virtual learning • Is familiar with the schools learning management system (LMS), technology and technology policies