

Brockton Public Schools Paraprofessional Development Program

During the 2013-2014 school year, the Brockton Public Schools will offer its staff of more than 350 paraprofessionals a series of two-hour training and development sessions. Each para will cycle through the various offerings in the series on consecutive PD days. The current program list and a brief description of each session are shown below.

Multicultural Brockton

This session explores the cultural diversity of the Brockton community. It includes an overview of culture and its components; how culture impacts communication and learning; and the integration of diverse cultures in a school environment. Participants make connections to their experiences as instructional paraprofessionals, and reflect on the role of culture in their communication and expectations.

Meeting the Social/Emotional Needs of Students

This session is designed to help the participant become aware of the variety of social/emotional issues that can affect a student's in-school behavior. Practical approaches for effective interaction with students, including techniques for de-escalating problem situations are provided.

McKinney-Vento: Supporting Children Experiencing Homelessness

This session is designed to help participants understand the scope, causes, and impact of homelessness on the children attending our schools. The goal is for all staff to develop a better understanding of ways in which they can provide support to children experiencing homelessness.

Behavior Management and Effective Interventions

This training equips participants with appropriate strategies and knowledge to deal with students who present challenging behaviors. The goal of this session is to learn techniques that can be utilized within the classroom/school to create a safe and supportive

environment for children.

Emergency Response in the Classroom

This workshop will provide an overview of the *Principles of Emergency Management*. It will detail Brockton Public Schools safety procedures, including the types of drills, classroom safety procedures, and available resources. Time will be provided for questions/answers.

The Role of the Paraprofessional in Health/Nursing Services

This session will review policies and practices that relate to health/nursing services, including concussion. On a more practical level, techniques of first aid care in emergencies will be introduced.

Disability Awareness

This session is designed to provide participants with an overview of various disability categories in special education regulations, and how they affect learning. The nature of *specialized instruction* and the team evaluation process are also reviewed.

Technology in the Classroom

This workshop is designed to provide an overview of various software applications and specific devices, such as *Smartboards*, *Elmos*, and *tablets*, that are used in the classroom. Participants will be exposed to and login to *Discovery Education* and *Wikispaces*, and will experience video conferencing. The session takes place in a computer lab, and provides each participant with “hands-on” activities and practice. Participants will leave with access to a Wikipage containing all information covered in the session.

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City of Brockton

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