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7-10-07

2007 JUL 18 PM 1:18

Gentlemen:

In 2005, I completed my portfolio after many nights taking classes. I have been a paraprofessional for over 17 years as the learning support aide. My yearly evaluations have always been excellent. I thoroughly enjoy my job and working with the children as well as the entire staff.

While working toward the hours needed for my portfolio, my mother was battling old age ailments as well as two cancers. She's gone now and I am sorry I didn't spend those evenings with her. Now it is my understanding that my portfolio may not assure my position. How would you feel?

I can't imagine any test that would cover what my job entails. Each child is different and each year brings yet more individualize children. In many situations (unfortunately) being an aide can be a thankless position. Fortunately, my staff and students appreciate me. An aide can make the difference between success and failure.

Please seriously think this through and listen to the schools + staff before any decision is made. Also, please consider the pay scale for Parais. Many have to work a second job to make ends meet.

I appreciate your time and effort and trust

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You will listen to the voices of the parans.

Sincerely,

Ann H. Smith

Mary C. Howse Elm. Sch.

W. Chester Area School District

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