

JUL 1 2 2007

PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

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Mr Buckheit

I am writing in regards to the changes that may be put in place for the Paraprofessionals. I work in the MDS classroom at Scaegstown Elementary School. Our job consists of doing the students range of motion, feeding + changing them and putting them in adaptive exercise equipment.

Our students our wheelchair bound and require us to lift them out. We do whats in their IEP. This is alot of fine motor skills and matching. This job is physically hard because of all the lifting we do. I personally don't know what alot of our students are learning because only 2 out of 8 can move ~~and~~ their arms and seem to understand somewhat. There's no way they can be taught, reading, writing and math. I wish there would be though.

Our students need stability and don't do well with change. I feel it would be a waste of money for the changes for Paraprofessionals because we receive about 25 hours of rigorous training relating to our students. Also once you work with them you can know their temperment and they know our voices. These ~~these~~ students need love and hugs. I do that because some of our students don't come from a good home life. We've had to do sponge baths with a couple students because of their home situations. (These have been reported.)

Also our teacher is in the room so if I do have any questions, she's there. The salaries for Paraprofessionals would need to be increased to fill the vacancies if the 2 years of post secondary education is going to be required.

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OFFICE OF THE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

There is the ability for schools to transfer staff to fill positions when new students arrive will be diminished if new requirements are imposed. We already have a shortage of Special Education paraprofessionals in a number of districts. It takes a special person to do this job. Its not one alot of people are wanting to do. We've have subs come in and when they found out they were working with the MDS students, they left because they didn't want to work with them. If the proposed requirements are imposed this shortage will be exacerbated. This isn't fair for our students.

I hope this gives you some idea of my job. Its how to write and keep it short. I guess book knowledge isn't as good as heart knowledge in my case. Don't get me wrong, we do work with these students but just don't know if some of them are absorbing what's said.

Thanks for your time and may God lead you in the decisions you make.

Julie Medved MDS Aide

Penncrest School District

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