

SAMPLE JOB DESCRIPTION
Paraprofessional/Intervener

Code Reference §18§-4-8 and WVDE Board Policy 2419

A Paraprofessional is a school staff member who is not a teacher but who assists, supports and works closely with teachers in instructing students.

WV Board Policy 2419 recognizes interveners as a specially trained person who works consistently one-to-one with a student who is deafblind. The intervener facilitates access to the environmental information that is usually gained through vision and hearing but which is incomplete to the child who is deafblind. The intervener helps the student gather information, learn concepts and skills and develop communication and language.

JOB DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Assumes responsibility for supervising students and providing individual student instruction using basic methods and procedures prescribed for the instructional setting in which he/she works.

Since deafblindness is primarily a disability of access, the student will require extensive and novel modifications to the existing educational model. The student must have continual access to information that is otherwise not available, in order to provide equal access. The intervener serves as a bridge to the world for student who is deafblind, which allows the student to develop a sense of trust and security that will enable them to learn.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Assist in the educational and social development of students under the direction and guidance of the classroom teacher
- Be assigned as a one-to-one for a student who is deafblind
- Assist in the implementation of the Individual Education Plan for the student and monitor progress
- Serve as a liaison between the student, peers, and staff to promote ease of interaction with all persons
- Provide support for student inside and outside the classroom to enable them to fully participate in activities
- Confer with other team members including regular classroom teacher and other appropriate staff to better plan for needed modifications and services
- Demonstrate professionalism in all interactions with individuals unfamiliar with the educational setting.
- Attend student's IEP Team meeting in order to provide information about the student's communication abilities and needs.
- Serve as a member of the educational team to provide direct support to students with deafblindness as indicated in the students' Individualized Educational Plan
- Work effectively in close physical proximity to students who are primarily visual and tactile learners.
- Become proficient in the assigned student's communication methods and strategies.
- Assist staff in teaching academics, daily living and social skills
- Accompany and support the student during community-based instruction.
- Create activities and experiences to complement instructional program and IEP goals

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Applicant must have completed two years of study at an institution of higher education, obtained an associate's (or higher) degree, or be able to demonstrate knowledge of and the ability to assist in instructing reading, writing and mathematics.
- Applicant must be willing to participate and complete ongoing, approved training in the area of deafblindness. Support for the training may be provided by WV SenseAbilities Project. The intervener must be knowledgeable in a variety of techniques to be used to support a student with combined vision and hearing losses to make progress in the general curriculum as much as possible.

EXPECTATIONS:

- It is recommended that the Paraprofessional/Intervener:
- Be assigned ONLY to the student with deafblindness
- Refer the student's problems to the teacher (do not assume the teacher's role)
- Encourage the student to achieve to their highest potential
- Establish a procedure for seeking the professional input of team members of varying disciplines

ETHICS:

- It is recommended that the Paraprofessional/Intervener:
- Maintain confidentiality with all students
- Function in a manner appropriate to the situation
- Strive to further knowledge and skills