

2008

Working Draft



GUIDELINES *for* **Training & Support** **of Paraprofessionals** *Working with Students Birth to 21*



Connecticut State Department of Education

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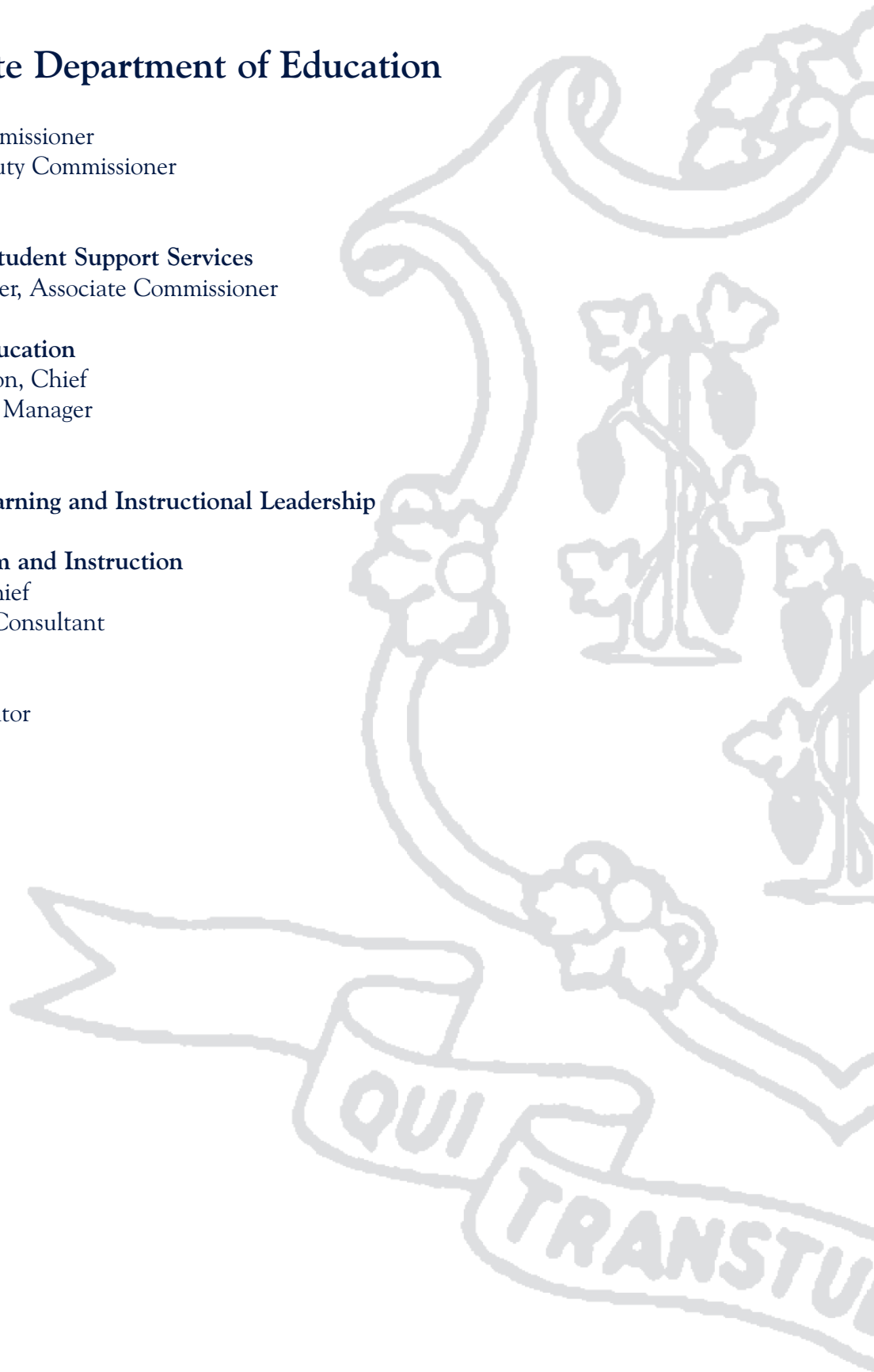
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of Paraprofessionals
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Contents

INTRODUCTION

Foreword	3
Acknowledgments	4
Rationale	5
Acknowledgment of Previous Contributions of Guidance for Paraprofessionals in Connecticut	6

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

7

SECTION 1 – Terminology and Job Titles

Terminology and Job Titles	12
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SECTION 2 – Federal and State Legislation for Paraprofessionals

IDEA 2004, Federal Legislation for Paraprofessionals Working with Students with Disabilities	16
Federal Legislation for Title I Paraprofessionals, No Child Left Behind Act 2001	18
Title I, Part A Paraprofessional Requirements	18
ParaPro Assessment	19
Connecticut Legislation for Paraprofessionals Working with Students with Disabilities	21

SECTION 3 – Paraprofessional Data

National and Connecticut Data	24
Credentialing and Paraprofessionals	26

SECTION 4 – Roles and Responsibilities of Paraprofessionals

Roles and Responsibilities	28
National Resource Center for Paraprofessionals Model	29
Appropriate Roles for Paraprofessionals	37
Paraprofessionals in the Connecticut Birth to Three System	
Connecticut Birth to Three Paraprofessionals	38
Early Intervention Assistants	38
Early Intervention Associates	38
Birth to Three Personnel Standards	39
Job Coach Competencies for Paraprofessionals	40
Participation in Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) Meetings or Planning and Placement Team Meetings (PPT)	42

SECTION 5 – Hiring and Orientation of Paraprofessionals

Hiring and Orientation of Paraprofessionals	44
Job Descriptions for Paraprofessionals	45
Sample Job Description	46
Development of a Handbook	49

SECTION 6 – Supporting Paraprofessionals

Supervision and Evaluation	52
Supervision	52
Evaluation	53
Effective Use of Paraprofessionals	54
Examining Impact	55
Analysis	55
Staff Development	56

Instructional Support.....	57
Behavior Management.....	58
Roles and Responsibilities.....	58
Disability Specific Training.....	59
Section Resources.....	60
Standards for Teacher/Provider Supervisory Competencies.....	61
Roles of Program and Building Administrators in the Management of Paraeducators.....	68
10 Tips for Connecticut Administrators.....	69
Danbury Public Schools Para-Educator Performance Evaluation – SAMPLE.....	70
East Hampton Public Schools Paraprofessional Performance Appraisal – SAMPLE.....	72
Middletown Public Schools Paraprofessional Annual Review Form – SAMPLE.....	74
Walkthrough Protocol.....	76
Teacher-Paraeducator Planning Tool – SAMPLE.....	79
Teacher-Paraeducator Planning Tool – Blank.....	80
What is my Role as a Paraprofessional? – SAMPLE.....	81
Classroom Activity Analysis Worksheet – SAMPLE.....	82
Schedule for Paraprofessional Staff – SAMPLE.....	83

APPENDICES

Appendix A: No Child Left Behind – Title I Paraprofessionals Non-Regulatory Guidance.....	85
Appendix B: Legislative Program Review and Investigations Study.....	99
Appendix C: American Federation of Teachers: Status of State Paraprofessional Certification.....	105
Appendix D: Community Colleges, Regional Educational Service Centers, and Other Organizations Offering Programs for Paraprofessionals.....	108
Appendix E: The Use of Paraprofessionals in Connecticut’s Birth to Three System, Public Schools, and Private Special Education Programs – A Survey: Executive Summary.....	111
Appendix F: The Use of Paraprofessionals in Connecticut’s Birth to Three System, Public Schools, and Private Special Education Programs – A Survey.....	117
Resources	123
References	125

Foreword

Paraprofessionals play important roles in improving student achievement. To this end, the No Child Left Behind Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act both state that paraprofessionals are to be appropriately trained and supervised. The previous guideline document for paraprofessionals, a collaborative effort between the Connecticut State Advisory Council on Special Education and the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development, outlined appropriate roles and responsibilities and also provided numerous resources for training. Continuing in a tradition steeped in the assurance that public schools have the tools necessary to provide all students with an appropriate education experience; the Connecticut State Department of Education is pleased to present this revision to the *Guidelines for Training and Support of Paraprofessionals Working with Students, Birth to 21*.

This publication highlights the increasing numbers of paraprofessionals in our state, the current requirements under NCLB, and the importance of training for paraprofessionals, as well as their supervisors and evaluators. It includes sample tools that define appropriate roles and responsibilities for paraprofessionals. These tools will further assist schools in becoming better skilled in determining the paraprofessional's role and impact on student learning.

The Connecticut State board of Education *Five-Year Comprehensive Plan for Education 2006-2011* outlines actions to address high academic achievement for all students. One such action is to provide training and technical assistance to educators with the goal of increasing student achievement and leading to a superior education. Our intent is to assist educators in meeting this challenge by providing this revised publication, *Guidelines for Training and Support of Paraprofessionals Working with Students, Birth to 21*.

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