Speech-Language Pathology Aides

Director’s Webinar
January 10, 2023
Paraprofessional Guidance

• Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) and Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) **do not** recognize Speech-Language Pathology Aides or Assistants.

• GaPSC does not have a certificate for a Communication Paraprofessional. The approved certificate is for a Paraprofessional.
Paraprofessional Guidance

• A Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) guidance document provides information regarding the roles and responsibilities of the paraprofessional when utilized within the speech and language program in a school.

• Georgia Board 160-4-7 contains guidance regarding the use of a communication paraprofessional to support the speech-language program. This should not be interpreted to mean that there is a separate certification or different set of allowable duties and responsibilities for those paraprofessionals.
Paraprofessional Guidance

- A Communication Paraprofessional is no different from any paraprofessional in a school building other than their assignment to the Speech-Language Impairment Program.
  - Certification requirements are the same.
  - Supervision requirements are the same.
  - Duties and Responsibilities are the same.
Role of a Communication Paraprofessional

Engage in duties and tasks planned, designed, and supervised by a certified or licensed SLP to include the following:

✓ Assist with classroom management

✓ Organize instructional materials

✓ Provide instructional assistance in a computer lab
Role of a Communication Paraprofessional

Engage in duties and tasks planned, designed, and supervised by a certified or licensed SLP to include the following:

✓ Conduct parental involvement activities

✓ Provide instructional support in a media center

✓ Provide instructional support services under the direct supervision of a highly qualified Speech-Language Pathologist
Role of a Communication Paraprofessional

There are specific duties and tasks that a paraprofessional cannot perform. These include the following:

➢ Carry a caseload
➢ Represent himself or herself as an SLP
➢ Administer standardized or non-standardized diagnostic tests or formal or informal evaluations
➢ Participate in an IEP without the supervising SLP
➢ Provide interpretive information to the student or parent
Role of a Communication Paraprofessional

There are specific duties and tasks that a paraprofessional cannot perform. These include the following:

- Write, develop, or modify an IEP
- Sign formal documents in lieu of the supervising SLP
- Identify student for service or exit a student from service
- Disclose confidential information to anyone other than the supervising SLP

Georgia DOE Guidance Document
Any Questions?
Contact Information

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