

NEA ESP K-12 Career Families: A Closer Look



PARAEDUCATOR K-12 MEMBERS

Our careers have changed dramatically since we were first introduced into classrooms as teacher aides. Our duties are no longer limited to recordkeeping, preparing materials, or monitoring students in the cafeteria and other settings. Today, paraeducators assist with classroom instruction and provide direct services to students and their parents. A large number of us work with students with special needs, and all of us have professional responsibilities that contribute directly to academic achievement.

Paraeducators is one of the nine ESP career families. NEA ESPs make up nearly a half million of NEA's 3 million members. As a critical part of the education workforce, NEA paraeducator members meet the needs of the whole student, ensuring students and schools succeed.

We work with students with special needs

We help all students achieve

We are educators

FAST FACTS

- 55% work at preschool, kindergarten, or elementary levels
- 84% work with special education students
- 86% work full-time
- 90% female
- Average age is 50
- 49% of the total K-12 NEA ESP membership

PARAEDUCATOR CAREERS:

INSTRUCTIONAL AND NON-INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS	PRESCHOOL CAREGIVERS
TEACHERS' AND PROGRAM AIDES	BUILDING, BUS, AND PLAYGROUND MONITORS
LIBRARY AIDES, TECHNICIANS' ASSISTANTS	CROSSING GUARDS

34%

HAVE A
BACHELOR'S
DEGREE

70%

STAY IN FIELD

61%

VOLUNTEERED TO READ
BOOKS TO STUDENTS

Committed to students and their career. On average, NEA paraeducator members have been working in public education for 12 years. **70%** plan to stay in the ESP field, and **60%** plan to stay in their current position until retirement. **76%** have spent their own money to purchase food or school supplies for students.

Well-trained and experienced. A quarter (**26%**) have a 2-year college degree, **34%** a Bachelor's degree, and **11%** a Master's, Professional, or higher degree.

Active in the school community. A large majority (**70%**) live in the communities where they work. **53%** have supported a parent organization and **61%** have volunteered to read books to students. **38%** percent have taught or supported art or musical activities, **36%** have supported a school or tutoring program, and **31%** have coached or supported a sports program.

Focused on safety. A majority (**80%**) have responsibilities promoting school safety.