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

PARAEDUCATOR CAREERS:
INSTRUCTIONAL AND NON-INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS
TEACHERS’ AND PROGRAM AIDES
LIBRARY AIDES, TECHNICIANS’ ASSISTANTS
PRESDCHOOL CAREGIVERS
BUILDING, BUS, AND PLAYGROUND MONITORS
CROSSING GUARDS

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.