

ParaEducator PD Now™ currently has 136 professional development courses available for paraeducators. Each course takes approximately 40 to 60 minutes to complete. In this document, you'll find course information organized in two ways:

- 1) Course titles displayed by topic category and subcategory.
- 2) Course titles and objectives for each course organized in numerical order for quick reference.

COURSE CATALOG

CONTENT AREA KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS / TITLE I

CONTENT AREA INSTRUCTION: READING, WRITING, AND MATH

118	Supporting Instruction: Reading
119	Supporting Instruction: Writing
120	Supporting Instruction: Mathematics
162	Supporting Reading Instruction in Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics (Part I)
163	Supporting Reading Instruction in Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics (Part II)
170	Assisting Struggling Readers with Their Textbook Assignments

CONTENT AREA KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS: READING AND WRITING

130	Reading Comprehension: Narrative Texts
131	Reading Comprehension: Informative Texts
132	Reading Comprehension: Decoding Language and Utilizing Layout
133	Writing Fundamentals: Parts of Speech and Effective Sentences
134	Writing Fundamentals: Mechanics of Writing

CONTENT AREA KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS: MATHEMATICS

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136	Mathematics: Fractions, Decimals, and Percentages
137	Basic Algebra
138	Basic Geometry
139	Basic Data Analysis
185	Basic Data Analysis II
187	Basic Algebra II: Patterns and Equations
188	Basic Algebra II: Graphing, Proportions, and Ratios
189	Basic Geometry II: Angles and Triangles
190	Basic Geometry II: Circles and Transformations
192	Probability
196	Mathematics: Properties and Integers
199	Customary Systems of Measurement
200	Metric Systems of Measurement
215	Mathematics: Factors and Multiples

-Indicates a training course for Title I, Section 1119 compliance assessments.

CONTENT AREA KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS: SCIENCE

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184	Introduction to Earth Science: Meteorology and Oceanography
186	Teaching the Scientific Method
191	Introduction to Life Science
194	Geologic History
195	Human Body Systems
207	Life Science: Reproduction and Heredity
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BASIC KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

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- 102 The First Day on the Job
- 103 Confidentiality
- 104 Understanding the Many Types of Special Programs
- 107 Individual Student and Program Information
- 111 Paraeducator Roles and Responsibilities in Inclusive Classrooms
- 149 Assisting Students in the Development of Social Skills
- 150 Transition: Building Skills for a Successful Adulthood
- 203 Characteristics of Young Adolescents
- 211 Confidentiality II: FERPA and HIPAA
- 219 Teaching Students About the Hidden Curriculum
- 223 Bullying Awareness, Prevention, and Intervention
- 236 What Is Response to Intervention (RtI)?

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

- 110 Classroom and Behavior Management
- 123 Implementing and Monitoring Behavior Intervention Plans
- 124 Providing Positive Behavioral Supports for Individual Students
- 160 Supporting Students with Attentional Concerns
- 161 Supporting Students Who Are Noncompliant
- 169 Strategies to Defuse a Defiant Student
- 182 Managing a Student in Crisis
- 197 Student Behavior: Noncompliance and Being Out of Seat
- 198 Student Behavior: Inappropriate Language and Inappropriate Touching
- 206 Student Behavior: Property Destruction and Self Injury
- 234 Building and Maintaining Respectful Relationships with Students

SUPPORTING CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

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- 121 Supporting Organizational Skill Development
- 158 The Roles of Paraeducators in Promoting Active Learning
- 159 Assisting Students with Work Completion
- 179 Community-Based Instruction
- 201 Brain-Based Learning (Part I)
- 202 Brain-Based Learning (Part II)
- 205 Encouraging Student Response and Engagement
- 213 Helping vs. Hovering: How to Avoid the “Helicopter” Effect
- 214 Using Discrete Trial Teaching in the Classroom
- 221 Helping Middle School Students Improve Organization Skills
- 235 Helping Students Become Successful Readers

ACADEMIC AND BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT

- 114 Monitoring Student Progress
- 117 Taking Instructional or Behavioral Data
- 222 The Importance of Assessments in Special Education

ACCOMMODATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

- 108 Introduction to Accommodations and Modifications
- 109 Supporting Students with Accommodations and Modifications

WORKING WITH OTHER EDUCATORS

- 112 Working with Official and Immediate Supervisors
- 113 Communicating with Student Teams
- 115 Developing Positive Communication Skills
- 180 Negotiation and Conflict Resolution Skills for Paraeducators

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- 217 A Look at the Impact of Poverty
- 218 Signs of Abuse or Neglect: What Paraeducators Need to Know
- 226 Understanding Common Concerns of Families of Individuals with Disabilities

HEALTH AND FIRST AID

- 153 Bloodborne Pathogens
- 154 Introduction to Emergency Action Principles
- 155 Providing Care in an Emergency

TECHNOLOGY

- 151 Assistive Technology
- 156 Using Computers and Other Technology to Increase Learning
- 164 Assistive Technology: An Introduction to Devices and Software
- 171 Positioning a Student for Microswitch Use
- 172 Adapting Microswitches and Battery-Operated Devices
- 173 Constructing a Simple Microswitch
- 174 Microswitches and Environmental Controls
- 175 Microswitch Use in the Classroom
- 176 Setting Up a Classroom for Assistive Technology Use
- 220 Frequency Modulated (FM) Systems

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GENERAL CONCEPTS

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- 106 An Introduction to IDEA's 13 Areas of Disability (Part II)
- 140 Understanding Students with Severe and/or Multiple Disabilities
- 157 Characteristics of Adolescents with Disabilities
- 204 Understanding Mental Health Disorders
- 230 Assisting Students on the School Bus
- 232 Supporting Career Exploration for Students with Disabilities

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CLASSROOM

- 122 Providing Personal and Physical Support for Students with Physical Disabilities
- 152 Feeding Students with Severe and Multiple Disabilities
- 165 Working with Students with Low Vision
- 166 Working with Students Who Are Blind
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- 168 Supporting Students with Severe Emotional Disturbance
- 181 Supporting Students with Specific Learning Disabilities
- 193 Supporting Students with Speech or Language Impairments
- 208 Supporting Students with Traumatic Brain Injuries
- 212 Further Strategies for Supporting Students with Speech or Language Impairments
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- 225 Implementing Visual Supports for Students with Developmental Disabilities
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AUTISM AND ASPERGER'S SYNDROME

- 141 Autism: Diagnosis and Characteristics
- 142 Autism: Social Interactions and Skill Development
- 143 Autism: Communication
- 144 Autism: Challenging Behaviors
- 145 Asperger's Syndrome: Understanding the Diagnosis, Prevalence, and Characteristics
- 146 Asperger's Syndrome: Best Practices for Supporting Students
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- 147 Gifted Students: Characteristics
- 148 Gifted Students: Assessment and Instructional Practices
- 210 Motivating Gifted Learners

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- 177 Understanding Early Childhood Disabilities
- 178 Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Early Childhood
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- 125 ELL: General Understanding
- 126 ELL: Avoiding Common Pitfalls
- 127 ELL: Fostering a Positive and Productive Classroom Environment
- 128 ELL: Strategies and Techniques for Student Success
- 129 ELL: Assessing Students

COURSE TITLES AND OBJECTIVES

PLN 101 – Understanding Inclusion

The participant will...

- See how inclusion has changed special education by serving more students in general education classrooms.
- Understand how inclusive education developed.
- Understand the philosophy and intent of inclusive education.
- Realize the impact of inclusive education on paraeducators.

PLN 102 – The First Day on the Job

The participant will...

- Understand how and where to locate school policies and procedures.
- Learn who has access to students' confidential information.
- Identify the duties of a paraeducator in different environments.
- Understand the importance of supporting what is happening in the classroom.

PLN 103 – Confidentiality

The participant will...

- Be able to define *confidentiality*.
- State the legal basis for confidentiality.
- Differentiate between people who can access student information and those who cannot.
- Describe strategies for practicing and maintaining appropriate confidentiality.
- Describe special situations involving confidentiality issues.

PLN 104 – Understanding the Many Types of Special Programs

The participant will...

- Understand what types of support programs school districts offer.
- Learn the parts of Title I services.
- Recognize the elements of at-risk programs.
- Become familiar with the pieces of special education services.
- Understand the guidelines of the law for educational placement.
- Learn the different placement options and instructional settings available under special education.

PLN 105 – An Introduction to IDEA’s 13 Areas of Disability (Part I)

The participant will...

- Identify the disabilities included under the IDEA legislation.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with learning disabilities.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with emotional disturbance.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with mental retardation.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with orthopedic impairment.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with other health impairments.

PLN 106 – An Introduction to IDEA’s 13 Areas of Disability (Part II)

The participant will...

- Identify the disabilities included under the IDEA legislation.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with speech and language impairment.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with visual impairment.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with traumatic brain injury.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with autism.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with developmental delay.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with ADD or AD/HD.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for gifted students.

PLN 107 – Individual Student and Program Information

The participant will...

- Learn what types of student personal information are most helpful to paraeducators.
- List characteristics and strategies for visual, auditory, and tactile learners.
- Be able to identify sources for specific student instructional information.
- Know the components of an individualized education program (IEP).
- Demonstrate an awareness of appropriate questions to use when gathering specific information on a student.

PLN 108 – Introduction to Accommodations and Modifications

The participant will...

- Learn the difference between accommodations and modifications.
- Understand the range of accommodations and modifications for students with exceptionalities.
- Understand when and how to provide appropriate modifications for students.
- Learn strategies for designing and implementing modifications.

PLN 109 – Supporting Students with Accommodations and Modifications

The participant will...

- Learn a variety of methods for making appropriate accommodations and modifications.
- Understand which students a paraeducator can support with accommodations and modifications.
- Understand when accommodations and modifications are needed to support a student.

PLN 110 – Classroom and Behavior Management

The participant will...

- Address the concerns he or she has about dealing with discipline problems.
- Understand who is responsible for classroom management and student discipline.
- Learn how to be effective when handling discipline issues.
- Review the importance of established classroom rules.
- Learn why inappropriate behaviors occur.
- Define how to set limits effectively.
- Discover proactive approaches to managing student behavior.

PLN 111 – Paraeducator Roles and Responsibilities in Inclusive Classrooms

The participant will...

- Recognize that part of the paraeducator’s job is to learn how to work well with both students and adults.
- Understand how to support targeted students in the inclusive classroom.
- Identify ways to support the general education teacher in the inclusive classroom.
- Learn effective communication skills for working as a team member.
- Review the variety of duties that may be required from a paraeducator.
- Organize information effectively to carry out assigned duties.
- Identify the “don’ts” of working with a general education teacher.

PLN 112 – Working with Official and Immediate Supervisors

The participant will...

- Identify two kinds of supervisors.
- Learn the difference between an official and immediate supervisor.
- Discuss the various responsibilities of an official supervisor.
- Discuss the various responsibilities of an immediate supervisor.

PLN 113 – Communicating with Student Teams

The participant will...

- Realize the importance of being an effective communicator with all members of a student’s educational team.
- Discover strategies for communicating effectively with the general education teacher.
- Become familiar with strategies for gaining important information regarding students and programs.
- Develop strategies for promoting effective communication between the general education and special education teachers.
- Learn techniques to use when confronted with an unwelcoming teacher.
- Understand the role of the paraeducator in communicating with parents.
- Identify ways to communicate the role of the paraeducator to students.

PLN 114 – Monitoring Student Progress

The participant will...

- Recognize the importance of monitoring the progress of students with special needs.
- Understand the various components of an individualized education program or plan (IEP).
- Understand the role of the paraeducator in monitoring student progress.
- Learn strategies and methods for monitoring student progress.

PLN 115 – Developing Positive Communication Skills

The participant will...

- Discover the importance of developing a good working relationship and good communication with other adults in the classroom.
- Understand the ground rules for communication.
- Identify when to ask questions.
- Learn how to develop assertive communication skills.
- Develop nonverbal communication skills.
- Determine how to best communicate with the classroom teacher.

PLN 116 – Classroom Instructional Arrangements

The participant will...

- Identify the role of the paraeducator during classroom instruction.
- Learn the various options for paraeducators related to instructional arrangements for supporting students.
- Develop strategies for utilizing instructional arrangement options within the classroom.
- Determine the skills a paraeducator may offer to the variety of instructional arrangements available for supporting students.

PLN 117 – Taking Instructional or Behavioral Data

The participant will...

- Understand the purpose of data collection.
- Discover various methods for collecting instructional data.
- Examine various methods for collecting behavioral data.
- Learn how to be an effective data collector.

PLN 118 – Supporting Reading Instruction

The participant will...

- Review the meaning and activity of reading.
- Learn questions to ask regarding the school district's reading program.
- Gain knowledge of the pieces that make up a balanced literacy program.
- Understand the cues that readers can use to gain meaning from text.
- Learn prompts for encouraging students to use reading strategies to gain meaning from text.
- Recognize the stages of reading development.
- Learn tips for making appropriate accommodations and modifications to reading instruction and activities.

PLN 119 – Supporting Writing Instruction

The participant will...

- Learn basic points about the writing process.
- Understand the different ways of helping students with writing.
- Learn simple rules for supporting writing instruction with students.
- Gain tips for making appropriate accommodations and modifications to writing instruction and activities.

PLN 120 – Supporting Mathematics Instruction

The participant will...

- Gain a basic overview of the fundamentals of mathematics instruction.
- Learn strategies for working with students in mathematics and, in particular, problem solving.
- Understand the role that educators play in building positive student attitudes toward mathematics.
- Learn some tips for making appropriate accommodations and modifications to mathematics instruction and activities.
- Learn techniques for providing feedback to students on right versus wrong answers.

PLN 121 – Supporting Organizational Skill Development

The participant will...

- Gain a basic understanding of the role that instruction in organizational skill strategies plays in assisting students to focus on the learning process and accomplish an academic task independently.
- Be able to teach organizational strategies.
- Learn suggestions for providing feedback to students.
- Know strategies to use when working with students on teacher-pleasing behavior, understanding and completing assignments, reading textbooks, taking tests, writing paragraphs, and understanding concepts.
- Understand how to assist students in becoming proficient strategic learners.

PLN 122 – Providing Personal and Physical Support for Students with Physical Disabilities

The participant will...

- Understand the necessity for and importance of positioning and mobility equipment.
- Be able to identify common types of positioning equipment and mobility equipment used by students with severe physical disabilities at school.
- Be able to identify common transfer methods required throughout the school day for a physically disabled student.
- Be familiar with the important physical healthcare issues requiring a paraeducator's direct involvement when working with physically disabled students.
- Become aware of duties and responsibilities of paraeducators working with physical disabilities.
- Understand the need for students' modesty, self-esteem and privacy to be respected and maintained.

PLN 123 – Implementing and Monitoring Behavior Intervention Plans

The participant will...

- Understand the purpose of a Behavior Intervention Plan.
- Identify the components of a Behavior Intervention Plan.
- Learn the effective techniques for implementing a Behavior Intervention Plan.
- Discover the purpose and methods for monitoring a Behavior Intervention Plan.

PLN 124 – Providing Positive Behavioral Supports for Individual Students

The participant will...

- Understand the underlying philosophy of using positive behavioral supports.
- Identify positive and proactive supports that can be used within the classroom or school environment.
- Learn effective techniques to apply positive behavioral supports to teaching methods.
- Learn effective ways to apply positive behavioral supports to interpersonal actions.

PLN 125 – ELL: General Understanding

The participant will...

- Define the term “English language learner (ELL).”
- Examine the variety of cultures and language differences that ELL students bring to the classroom.
- Explain how ELL students’ native language proficiency can affect their acquisition of English as a second language.
- Understand legal requirements regarding an equal and fair education for ELL students.
- Learn the importance of collaborating with the classroom teacher in assisting ELL students.
- Explore the challenges paraeducators face when working with English language learners.

PLN 126 – ELL: Avoiding Common Pitfalls

The participant will...

- Explain how negative stereotypes can harm ELL students.
- Understand that not having the ability to speak English is not a disability.
- Examine how ELL students acquire a second language.
- Understand how to have reasonable expectations for ELL students.
- Learn reasonable expectations to have for ELL students’ parents and caregivers.

PLN 127 – ELL: Fostering a Positive and Productive Classroom Environment

The participant will...

- Describe elements of classroom environments that are conducive to learning for ELL students.
- Discover how using visual cues can enhance the learning for ELL students and all learners.
- Learn how bulletin boards can become active learning tools.
- Identify non-traditional classroom settings.
- Understand that the professionalism of the teacher or paraeducator is crucial to creating classroom positive learning environment.

PLN 128 – ELL: Strategies and Techniques for Students Success

The participant will...

- Understand that practicing and maintaining classroom procedures helps ELL students become more confident in the classroom.
- Discover that hands-on activities support ELL students by engaging multiple senses.
- Learn that for ELL students, modeling is an excellent way to ease anxiety and increase student understanding of a given concept.
- Realize that cooperative learning groups offer multiple ways to facilitate learning for ELL students.
- Identify five important elements of positive classroom environments that are conducive to learning for ELL students.

PLN 129 – ELL: Assessing Students

The participant will...

- Understand school districts' responsibility in meeting federal mandates for providing services to ELL students.
- Learn the role of the home language survey.
- Identify steps taken to assess ELL students for placement in appropriate academic programs.
- Realize that academic and conversational English are different.
- Recognize varied aspects of informal assessment of student progress.
- Understand ways and means of explaining student information to parents.

PLN 130 – Reading Comprehension: Narrative Texts

The participant will...

- Read a narrative text.
- Review the elements of narrative texts.
- Interpret, synthesize, and evaluate a narrative text.

PLN 131 – Reading Comprehension: Informative Texts

The participant will...

- Review the elements of informative texts.
- Practice identifying informative text elements.
- Review five informative text structures.
- Interpret and evaluate informative text structures.

PLN 132 – Reading Comprehension: Decoding Language and Utilizing Layout

The participant will...

- Review three basic strategies for decoding unfamiliar words.
- Review the parts of words that aid in decoding unfamiliar words.
- Practice using the strategies to decode unfamiliar words.
- Review figurative language.
- Practice identifying types of figurative language.
- Review the informational layout of books.
- Practice identifying specific parts of a book.

PLN 133 – Writing Fundamentals: Parts of Speech and Effective Sentences

The participant will...

- Review the function of nouns and pronouns.
- Review the purpose and types of verbs.
- Review the function of adjectives and adverbs.
- Review the purpose of prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.
- Practice identifying the eight major parts of speech.
- Review the parts of a complete sentence—subject, predicate, phrase, and clause.
- Review the forms that sentences can take—simple, compound, complex, and compound complex.
- Review the purpose of different sentence types—declarative, interrogative, exclamatory, and imperative.
- Review the common mistakes made in writing sentences.
- Practice identifying the parts of a sentence.
- Practice identifying errors in writing.

PLN 134 – Writing Fundamentals: Mechanics of Writing

The participant will...

- Review the rules for capitalization.
- Practice identifying the proper capitalization in sentences.
- Review the major punctuation marks.
- Review the rules for using punctuation.
- Practice identifying the appropriate punctuation.

- Review the basic spelling rules for commonly misspelled words.
- Practice identifying spelling errors.

PLN 135 – Mathematics: Understanding the Basic Skills

The participant will...

- Review basic mathematical concepts.
- Review basic mathematical terminology such as *sum*, *difference*, *product*, *quotient*, *dividend*, and *divisor*.
- Review the basic mathematical operations of whole numbers.
- Review the proper order for mathematical operations.
- Recognize and interpret mathematical symbols.

PLN 136 – Mathematics: Fractions, Decimals, and Percentages

The participant will...

- Review fractions, improper fractions, and mixed numbers.
- Study the basic mathematical operations of fractions.
- Review the basic mathematical operations of decimals.
- Study the computation of percentages.

PLN 137 – Basic Algebra

The participant will...

- Review algebraic terminology.
- Evaluate simple algebraic expressions.
- Review the methods for solving for a single, unknown variable.
- Review the basic concepts of exponents.

PLN 138 – Basic Geometry

The participant will...

- Review basic geometric terminology.
- Identify basic geometric figures.
- Practice the formula for computing perimeter.
- Practice the formula for computing area.
- Practice the formula for computing volume for basic geometric shapes.
- Practice plotting ordered pairs on a coordinate grid.

PLN 139 – Basic Data Analysis

The participant will...

- Review the uses and terminology of statistics.
- Review the process of interpreting bar and circle graphs.

PLN 140 – Understanding Students with Severe and/or Multiple Disabilities

The participant will...

- Learn the definitions of severe and/or multiple disabilities.
- Gain information related to the causes, prevalence, medical, and social implications of severe and/or multiple disabilities.
- Become familiar with learning characteristics of students with severe and/or multiple disabilities.
- Learn language characteristics associated with severe and/or multiple disabilities.
- Identify behavioral characteristics of students with severe and/or multiple disabilities.
- Recognize physical characteristics associated with severe and/or multiple disabilities.

PLN 141 – Autism: Diagnosis and Characteristics

The participant will...

- Learn the definition of autism.
- Gain an overview of the causes and diagnosis of autism.
- Become familiar with characteristics and issues associated with autism.
- Discover the prevalence of autism and the prognosis for students with the disorder.

PLN 142 – Autism: Social Interactions and Skill Development

The participant will...

- Review the definition of autism.
- Understand the definition and characteristics of social interaction.
- Gain information on how learning issues impact social interactions.
- Learn about different instructional approaches for social skills training.
- Gain tips to make social skills instruction more effective.

PLN 143 – Autism: Communication

The participant will...

- Review the definition of autism.
- Understand the definition and function of communication.
- Examine the communication characteristics associated with autism.
- Gain information on how learning issues impact communication.
- Learn about the different modes of communication that children with autism may use.
- Develop ways to make communication with children with autism more effective.

PLN 144 – Autism: Challenging Behaviors

The participant will...

- Review the definition of autism.
- Become familiar with the behavioral characteristics associated with autism.
- Understand the needs and functions of behavior.
- Discover how positive behavioral supports can help prevent challenging behaviors.
- Learn techniques for replacing challenging behaviors with positive behaviors.
- Examine common tools of support and effective management techniques.

PLN 145 – Asperger’s Syndrome: Understanding the Diagnosis, Prevalence, and Characteristics

The participant will...

- Gain an understanding of the diagnosis and prevalence of Asperger’s syndrome.
- Understand the social interaction impairments of children with Asperger’s syndrome.
- Learn about typical characteristics and abnormalities of students with Asperger’s syndrome.

PLN 146 – Asperger’s Syndrome: Best Practices for Supporting Students

The participant will...

- Understand the characteristics of Asperger’s syndrome which have an effect on a student’s success in school.
- Identify eight areas of functioning in which children with Asperger’s syndrome may have deficits.
- Learn effective strategies for enhancing school success for students with Asperger’s syndrome.

PLN 147 – Gifted Students: Characteristics

The participant will...

- Identify the characteristics of students who are gifted.
- Learn myths and corresponding realities regarding the gifted student population.
- Explore services designed for educating students who are gifted.

PLN 148 – Gifted Students: Assessment and Instructional Practices

The participant will...

- Become familiar with appropriate assessments for identification of students who are gifted.
- Discover appropriate interventions for assessing and meeting the needs of gifted students in the general classroom setting.
- Explore best practices for delivering gifted services.
- Understand how differentiation is a key to meeting the needs of gifted students.

PLN 149 – Assisting Students in the Development of Social Skills

The participant will...

- Gain an understanding of the need for students to have good social skills.
- Recognize the basic manners that should be expected of students.
- Learn ways to help students understand the importance of good manners.
- Review appropriate ways for students to interact with people with physical disabilities.
- Identify important communication skills and ways to assist students in gaining those skills.

PLN 150 – Transition: Building Skills for a Successful Adulthood

The participant will...

- Be able to define transition services in terms of the three most important components of these services.
- Gain an understanding of the goals of transition services for students with disabilities.
- Learn ways of assisting students to become independent workers and to develop self-advocacy skills.
- Learn ways to help students build their self-esteem, self-identity, and dreams for adulthood.

PLN 151 – Assistive Technology

The participant will...

- Be able to define key assistive technology terms.
- Identify the three main purposes of assistive technology for students with disabilities.
- Understand how federal law impacted the use of assistive technology for students with disabilities.
- Describe the continuum of assistive technology.
- Explain the paraeducator's role in facilitating assistive technology.

PLN 152 – Feeding Students with Severe and Multiple Disabilities

The participant will...

- Identify four conditions that interfere with normal feeding and how to respond to each condition.
- Learn techniques to help a student overcome eating difficulties.
- Become familiar with considerations in preparing both the eating area and the student for mealtimes.
- Know how to position a student for maximum benefit in feeding.
- Discover ways to prepare food to help a student with eating difficulties.
- Effectively engage and feed a student who needs feeding assistance.
- Understand what to do after the meal is finished.

PLN 153 – Bloodborne Pathogens

The participant will...

- Identify bloodborne pathogens and other biohazards.
- Recognize possible consequences of contamination from bloodborne pathogens.
- Discover what techniques you can use to protect yourself from bloodborne pathogens and other biohazards.
- Learn about controls associated with bloodborne pathogens and other biohazards.
- Understand how to prevent contamination after accidental exposure.
- Practice theoretical responses to different scenarios involving bloodborne pathogens and other biohazards.

PLN 154 – Introduction to Emergency Action Principles

The participant will...

- Understand the importance of learning first aid and its role in providing a safe learning environment.
- Learn how to prevent and prepare for emergencies.
- Study how to prevent disease and parasite transmission.
- Gain an understanding of the content and importance of an emergency action plan.
- Learn the initial steps in emergency response.
- Study how to check the scene for safety.
- Gain an understanding of when to call and how to interact with the emergency medical services (EMS) system.

PLN 155 – Providing Care in an Emergency

The participant will...

- Learn how to respond and provide care in the event of an emergency or sudden illness.
- Review information contained in Course 154.
- Learn about common emergency situations.
- Gain an understanding of how to evaluate and treat wounds.
- Study how to control bleeding.
- Learn how to help burn victims.
- Study how to evaluate and treat musculoskeletal injuries.
- Gain an understanding of how to help victims of sudden illnesses.
- Learn how to handle heat- and cold-related illnesses.

PLN 156 – Using Computers and Other Technology to Increase Learning

The participant will...

- Learn about computer hardware components and their care in the school setting.
- Identify basic software programs and their uses in the classroom.
- Learn how the Internet can be used in the classroom.
- Understand the concepts of copyright and plagiarism in order to assist students in correctly using Internet information.

PLN 157 – Characteristics of Adolescents with Disabilities

The participant will...

- Learn the distinguishing features of adolescence.
- Identify five developmental characteristics of middle school and junior high school students.
- Learn about characteristics and behaviors specific to adolescents with disabilities.
- Identify ways to handle adolescent behaviors and characteristics in the best manner for students with disabilities.
- Learn how paraeducators can demonstrate and promote respect for individuals with disabilities.

PLN 158 – The Roles of Paraeducators in Promoting Active Learning

The participant will...

- Review the importance of active learning.
- Understand ways to incorporate active learning strategies into the foundational components of a lesson.
- Learn how to implement a lesson while incorporating active learning strategies.
- Discover a variety of strategies that will engage students in their daily classroom learning.

PLN 159 – Assisting Students with Work Completion

The participant will...

- Become familiar with four components of the learning process.
- Understand how to provide a structure for work completion.
- Learn various interventions for difficulties with work completion.

PLN 160 – Supporting Students with Attentional Concerns

The participant will...

- Become familiar with the range of attentional concerns as well as associated characteristics and behaviors.
- Learn various personal behaviors for interacting with students.
- Gain strategies for supporting and preventing attentional issues in the classroom.
- Discover strategies for supporting and preventing attentional issues in unstructured settings.

PLN 161 – Supporting Students Who Are Noncompliant

The participant will...

- Learn what noncompliant behavior is.
- Recognize reasons for noncompliance.
- Learn techniques to prevent or minimize noncompliance.

- Identify strategies to use with a student who demonstrates noncompliance with verbal requests and directions.
- Become familiar with strategies to use with a student who is noncompliant with school and classroom rules.

PLN 162 – Supporting Reading Instruction in Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics (Part I)

The participant will...

- Understand the importance of continuing support for reading instruction in the content areas of social studies, science, and mathematics as students progress through school.
- Discuss the “roadblocks” that affect teachers and students with regard to reading in the areas of social studies, science, and mathematics.
- Gain knowledge of various instructional strategies with which to support reading instruction for students in the areas of social studies, science, and mathematics **before** instruction in the content area occurs.

*NOTE: PLN 163 will continue with this topic by discussing strategies that support reading instruction for students **during and after** instruction in the content areas of social studies, science, and mathematics.*

PLN 163 – Supporting Reading Instruction in Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics (Part II)

The participant will...

- Recognize when reading instruction support is needed and the role of the paraeducator in delivering such support.
- Gain knowledge of various instructional strategies with which to support reading instruction for students in the content areas of social studies, science, and mathematics **during** instruction in the content area.
- Gain knowledge of various instructional strategies with which to support reading instruction for students in the area of social studies, science, and mathematics **after** instruction in the content area occurs.

*NOTE: PLN 162 provides strategies that support reading instruction for students **before** instruction in the content areas of social studies, science, and mathematics.*

PLN 164 – Assistive Technology: An Introduction to Devices and Software

The participant will...

- Identify the three basic categories of assistive technology.
- Become familiar with computer-related assistive technologies.
- Become familiar with augmentative and alternative communication devices.
- Define and identify examples of environmental controls used as assistive devices.
- Explore the paraeducator’s role as it relates to assistive technology.

NOTE: We suggest that you complete PLN 151 prior to taking this course. PLN 151 provides a description of the basic concepts of assistive technology, and this course provides more in-depth information about the actual devices used with students with special needs.

PLN 165 – Working with Students with Low Vision

The participant will...

- Learn about common causes of visual impairment in children in the United States.
- Learn terminology and abbreviations associated with visual impairments.
- Identify optical and nonoptical devices that aid a student with low vision in the classroom.
- Identify typical supporting roles for those who assist a student with low vision in the classroom.

PLN 166 – Working with Students Who Are Blind

The participant will...

- Distinguish facts from myths about blindness.
- Learn terminology associated with blindness.
- Learn ways in which core curriculum is expanded for students with blindness.
- Gain a basic understanding of orientation and mobility.
- Identify the paraeducator’s role in supporting a student with blindness.

PLN 167 – Working with Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

The participant will...

- Gain a basic understanding of the deaf culture.
- Be able to define the terms *deaf* and *hard of hearing*.
- Become familiar with different sign languages and systems.
- Learn effective communication strategies for working with a student who is deaf or hard of hearing.
- Identify difficulties that a student who is deaf or hard of hearing may encounter.
- Understand the role of the paraeducator in educating students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

PLN 168 – Supporting Students with Severe Emotional Disturbance

The participant will...

- Learn the definition of emotional disturbance.
- Identify characteristics and behaviors associated with emotional disturbance.
- Understand ways to support students identified with severe emotional disturbance in the educational setting.
- Learn personal skills to demonstrate and discipline traps to avoid when supporting students who have an emotional disturbance.

PLN 169 – Strategies to Defuse a Defiant Student

The participant will...

- Become familiar with the challenges of working with defiant students.
- Identify the five stages of defiant behavior and the appropriate intervention at each stage.
- Review how to communicate appropriately through body language and voice tone.
- Learn how to counteract unreasonable expectations.
- Understand how to set limits effectively.

PLN 170 – Assisting Struggling Readers with Their Textbook Assignments

The participant will...

- Discuss difficulties that struggling readers might have when navigating a textbook.
- Identify the characteristics of expository text.
- Review three features of textbooks that can influence a student's understanding of textbook material.
- Understand the broad benefits of intervention strategies for struggling readers.
- Discover strategies for supporting reading fluency.
- Learn strategies for supporting concentration and organization.
- Review strategies for supporting reading comprehension.
- Identify strategies for assisting students to be self-motivated and competent readers.

PLN 171 – Positioning a Student for Microswitch Use

The participant will...

- Become familiar with the function and terminology of microswitches.
- Examine the characteristics of touch-activated microswitches.
- Identify factors which must be taken into account when positioning a student for successful activation and use of a microswitch.
- Learn the paraeducator's role as it relates to positioning a student for successful microswitch use.

PLN 172 – Adapting Microswitches and Battery-Operated Devices

The participant will...

- Understand the rationale for using microswitches and battery-operated devices with students who have disabilities.
- Identify the tools needed to adapt microswitches and battery-operated devices.
- Discover ways to adapt a microswitch to meet the needs of a specific students.
- Become familiar with the use of a battery interrupter as a temporary adaptation.
- Learn about battery-operated devices that are easy to adapt for use with a microswitch.
- Understand the paraeducator's role in adapting microswitches for students.

PLN 173 – Constructing a Simple Microswitch

The participant will...

- Understand the importance of constructing a microswitch for a specific student.
- Identify the tools needed to construct a simple microswitch.
- Recognize the attributes of a variety of simple microswitches.
- Identify materials to use for constructing specific simple microswitches.
- Follow the steps to construct a simple microswitch that matches the needs of a specific student with a disability as prescribed by the IEP team.
- Learn the role of a paraeducator in the construction of microswitches with students.

PLN 174 – Microswitches and Environmental Controls

The participant will...

- Define the terms microswitch and environmental controls.
- Become familiar with what features to consider when choosing assistive technology for students with different needs.
- List assistive technology attributes to consider when building a classroom collection.
- Identify commonly used microswitches and environmental controls.
- Explore the hierarchy of microswitches and environmental controls.
- Understand the paraeducator's role in implementing and evaluating the use of assistive technologies.

PLN 175 – Microswitch Use in the Classroom

The participant will...

- Examine the purpose of using microswitches in the classroom for students with disabilities.
- Identify skills that microswitches promote and enhance.
- Become familiar with the characteristics that should be considered when selecting microswitches.
- Identify appropriate times and activities that a microswitch would be used with a student having a disability.
- Learn the paraeducator's role as it relates to helping students with disabilities access their educational experiences through the use of microswitch activation and attached devices.

PLN 176 – Setting Up a Classroom for Assistive Technology Use

The participant will...

- Identify the five aspects to consider when setting up a classroom environment for a student with a disability using assistive technology.
- Review best practices for ensuring successful integration of assistive technology into the student's educational environment.
- Review best practices for developing meaningful and functional activities using assistive technology in the student's learning environment.
- Explain the concepts of a classroom setup when implementing assistive technology support.
- Describe an Assistive Technology Integration Plan.
- Identify the paraeducator's role in implementing assistive technology use in the classroom.

PLN 177 – Understanding Early Childhood Disabilities

The participant will...

- Obtain an overview of the historical and current status of early intervention and early childhood disability services.
- Discover the importance and goals of early intervention services.
- Gain information related to the steps that lead to providing early childhood disability services.
- Learn about the types of early childhood disability services available to young children.
- Review best practices in preschool early intervention.

PLN 178 – Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Early Childhood

The participant will...

- Define and outline basic guidelines of developmentally appropriate practice in early childhood education.
- Discuss the role of play in developmentally appropriate practice (DAP).
- Identify the components of a DAP classroom, including types of learning experiences and physical setup.
- Understand the role of the teaching staff in the DAP classroom.
- Understand the impact of DAP on early childhood disability services.

PLN 179 – Community-Based Instruction

The participant will...

- Understand the principles of community-based instruction.
- Learn why community-based instruction is an important part of the curriculum.
- Identify some challenges to community-based instruction.
- Discuss which students will be best served by community-based instruction.
- Learn the difference between field trips and community-based instruction.
- Identify when to include community-based instruction in a student's curriculum.
- Give some examples and activities for community-based instruction.

PLN 180 – Negotiation & Conflict Resolution Skills for Paraeducators

The participant will...

- Learn that conflict can have both positive and negative results.
- Discover how conflict affects special education.
- Define conflict.
- Understand common responses to conflict.
- Become familiar with a problem-solving and conflict resolution process.
- Identify six steps to collaborative problem solving.

PLN 181 – Students with Specific Learning Disabilities

The participant will...

- Define learning disability.
- Understand why paraeducators need to know about the characteristics of students with learning disabilities.
- Identify the three academic areas primarily affected by learning disabilities.
- Understand the various speech and language issues associated with learning disabilities.
- Comprehend what a nonverbal learning disability is.
- Become familiar with accommodations and strategies to help students with learning disabilities.
- Discover ways to help and encourage students with learning disabilities.

PLN 182 – Managing a Student in Crisis

The participant will...

- Understand the definition of a student in crisis.
- Identify the four stages of the Crisis Development Model.
- Begin developing personal strategies for dealing with a student in crisis.
- Learn basic guidelines concerning physical intervention.
- Become familiar with how to respond after the crisis is over.

PLN 183 – Introduction to Earth Science: Geology and Astronomy

The participant will...

- Identify types of rocks and the cycles which form them.
- Learn terminology and concepts associated with the layers of the earth, continental drift, and plate tectonics.
- Develop an understanding of Earth in the solar system.
- Understand the causes and types of eclipses and tides.

PLN 184 – Introduction to Earth Science: Meteorology and Oceanography

The participant will...

- Learn basic terminology related to the study of fossils.
- Become familiar with two ways the age of rocks is determined.
- Identify components of the geological time scale.

PLN 185 – Basic Data Analysis II

The participant will...

- Review terms used in collecting data.
- Review the concepts of quartiles, interquartile range, and outliers.

- Examine the relationship between frequency tables, histograms, stem-and-leaf plots and line graphs.
- Understand the purpose of double bar graphs, scatter plots and box-and-whisker graphs.
- Learn to identify misleading graphs.

PLN 186 – Teaching the Scientific Method

The participant will...

- Define the scientific method.
- Distinguish questions that are testable from those that are not.
- Understand the need for research prior to setting up an experiment.
- Learn how to formulate hypotheses.
- Identify and define the components of a scientific experiment.
- Understand how to analyze data and communicate the results.

PLN 187 – Basic Algebra II: Patterns and Equations

The participant will...

- Recognize various patterns.
- Extend patterns.
- Use a function table to find values and determine a rule.
- Review concepts and terminology associated with algebraic equations.
- Simplify like terms.
- Solve simple algebraic equations with like terms.

PLN 188 – Basic Algebra II: Graphing, Proportions, and Ratios

The participant will...

- Learn terms and concepts related to graphing coordinate pairs.
- Graph a simple linear equation.
- Express and simplify ratios.
- Review the basic concepts of proportions.

PLN 189 – Basic Geometry II: Angles and Triangles

The participant will...

- Measure and classify angles.
- Identify types of angles.
- Classify and identify basic components of triangles.
- Compute the area of triangles.
- Differentiate among types of right triangles.

PLN 190 – Basic Geometry II: Circles and Transformations

The participant will...

- Identify basic components of circles.
- Review the formula for computing the circumference of a circle.
- Review the formula for computing the area of a circle.
- Identify translations, reflections, and rotations.

PLN 191 – Introduction to Life Science

The participant will...

- Learn characteristics of living things.
- Understand general cell theory and concepts.
- Identify key elements of cell structure.
- Develop an understanding of cells' life processes.
- Distinguish levels of organization, organ systems, and life processes for multicellular organisms.

PLN 192 – Probability

The participant will...

- Learn basic concepts in probability.
- Learn basic concepts of event probability and sample space.

- Determine probability of simple and compound events.
- Learn how to find the probability of mutually exclusive events.
- Be introduced to the concepts of permutations and combinations.

PLN 193 – Supporting Students with Speech or Language Impairments

The participant will...

- Define speech or language impairment as it relates to four strands of communication.
- Learn about stuttering and strategies for working with students who stutter.
- Explore the concept of articulation and strategies for addressing articulation problems.
- Become familiar with three aspects of language impairment including content form and function.
- Examine the signs, causes, and strategies for dealing with voice impairments.

PLN 194 – Geologic History

The participant will...

- Learn basic terminology related to the study of fossils.
- Become familiar with two ways the age of rocks is determined.
- Identify components of the geological time scale.

PLN 195 – Human Body Systems

The participant will...

- Be introduced to the concepts of cells, tissues, organs, and organ systems—and functions they perform in the human body.
- Learn about the integumentary, muscle, and skeletal systems.
- Identify the components and processes of the digestive system.
- Examine the role of the endocrine and immune systems.
- Learn the three components of the excretory system.
- Identify the two types of nerves comprising the nervous system.
- Examine the respiratory and circulatory systems.
- Learn the role of the lymphatic system.
- Identify components of the male and female reproductive systems.

PLN 196 – Mathematics: Properties and Integers

The participant will...

- Define the commutative, associative, and distributive properties of numbers.
- Identify the identity elements and the property of zero.
- Learn the concept of integers, both positive and negative.
- Review how to add both positive and negative integers.
- Practice subtracting positive and negative integers.
- Know how to multiply positive and negative integers.
- Understand how to divide positive and negative integers.

PLN 197 – Student Behavior: Noncompliance and Being Out of Seat

The participant will...

- Understand the importance of objective behavior definitions in observing and managing behaviors in the classroom.
- Examine the three functions of behavior and how they are exhibited.
- Learn basic positive behavioral supports that address the occurrence of noncompliance and out-of-seat behaviors in the classroom.
- Know strategies that address the seeking of positive reinforcement.
- Understand strategies that address the seeking of negative reinforcement.
- Examine strategies that address the seeking of sensory regulation.
- Identify intervention strategies to use for targeted behaviors.

PLN 198 – Student Behavior: Inappropriate Language and Inappropriate Touching

The participant will...

- Understand the importance of objective behavior definitions in observing and managing behaviors in the classroom.
- Examine the three functions of behavior and how they are exhibited.
- Learn positive behavioral supports that address the occurrence of inappropriate language and inappropriate touching.
- Identify strategies that address the seeking of positive reinforcement.
- Understand strategies that address the seeking of negative reinforcement.
- Know strategies that address the seeking of sensory regulation.
- Identify intervention strategies to use for targeted behaviors.

PLN 199 – Customary Systems of Measurement

The participant will...

- Review customary systems of measurement.
- Understand relationships among units and how to convert one unit to another unit within the same system.
- Practice writing customary measures as fractions.
- Practice writing fractions as mixed measures.
- Become familiar with the computation of mixed measures.
- Learn to convert temperatures in degrees Fahrenheit to degrees Celsius.

PLN 200 – Metric Systems of Measurement

The participant will...

- Review the language of the metric system of measurement.
- Compare and contrast metric units of length, capacity, and mass.
- Convert from one measure to another measure within the same system.
- Understand computation with the metric system of measurement.
- Convert from metric measures to customary measures.
- Learn to convert temperatures in degrees Celsius to degrees Fahrenheit.

PLN 201 – Brain-Based Learning (Part I)

The participant will...

- Learn basic facts about the brain.
- Understand what gives the brain energy so that learning can occur.
- Identify the three main priorities of the brain that play a part in learning.
- Become aware of how to connect learning to the real world.
- Explore the kinds of learning activities that are most effective with brain-based research.

PLN 202 – Brain-Based Learning (Part II)

The participant will...

- Examine facts about how we learn as they apply to planning for instruction.
- Discover how brain-based learning impacts education.
- Become familiar with twelve brain-based research facts.

PLN 203 – Characteristics of Young Adolescents

The participant will...

- Learn about early signs of emerging adolescents.
- Examine the physical changes and characteristics of young adolescents.
- Identify some intellectual changes and characteristics of young adolescents.
- Learn key emotional changes and characteristics of young adolescents.
- Examine social changes and characteristics of young adolescents.
- Identify positive responses to typical early adolescent behavior.

PLN 204 – Understanding Mental Health Disorders

The participant will...

- Examine the diagnostic criteria for and symptoms of bipolar disorder.

- Become familiar with diagnostic criteria for and symptoms of obsessive-compulsive disorder.
- Learn how conduct disorder is diagnosed.
- Identify the characteristics of and diagnostic criteria for oppositional defiant disorder.
- Receive an overview of reactive attachment disorder.
- Understand the significance of mental health disorders in determining special education services.

PLN 205 – Encouraging Student Response and Engagement

The participant will...

- Understand the importance of student response and engagement.
- Learn strategies for encouraging student participation.
- Examine the difference between covert and overt behaviors.
- Identify ways to engage students in both covert and overt behaviors.
- Discuss strategies to promote active engagement in learning.

PLN 206 – Student Behavior: Property Destruction and Self Injury

The participant will...

- Understand the importance of objective behavior definitions in observing and managing behaviors in the classroom.
- Examine the three functions of behavior and how they are exhibited.
- Learn basic positive behavioral supports that address the occurrence of property destruction and self injury in the classroom.
- Know strategies that address the seeking of positive reinforcement.
- Learn strategies that address the seeking of negative reinforcement.
- Discover strategies that address the seeking of sensory regulation.
- Identify intervention strategies to use for targeted behaviors.

PLN 207 – Life Science: Reproduction and Heredity

The participant will...

- Develop an understanding of reproduction.
- Examine the process of mitosis.
- Become familiar with the process of meiosis.
- Review chromosomes, DNA, and genes.
- Discuss the concept of heredity and how traits are passed from parent to offspring.
- Use a Punnett Square to calculate the probability of inheriting certain traits.
- Be introduced to Gregor Mendel – The Father of Genetics.

PLN 208 – Supporting Students with Traumatic Brain Injuries

The participant will...

- Learn the definition of traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- Learn how a TBI differs from a learning disability.
- Examine the supports that are effective in transitioning a student with a TBI back to school.
- Understand the variety of supports often needed for a student with a TBI.
- Gain an awareness of behavioral issues and positive supports for a student with a TBI.

PLN 209 – Autism: Prompting Strategies

The participant will...

- Be introduced to the concept of prompting for students with autism.
- Examine the rationale for using prompting strategies in instruction and learning.
- Discover the varying levels of prompting.
- Understand how the prompt hierarchy can be used to promote student independence.
- Discuss the advantages associated with prompting.
- Review the disadvantages associated with prompting.
- Learn tips and strategies for applying prompting procedures appropriately.
- Look at some examples of prompting to promote student success.

PLN 210 – Motivating Gifted Learners

The participant will...

- Learn the importance of motivation to the achievement of gifted learners.
- Debunk myths associated with gifted learners.
- Identify simple strategies that will help motivate gifted learners.
- Gain even more strategies for motivating gifted learners.

PLN 211 – Confidentiality II: FERPA and HIPAA

The participant will...

- Become knowledgeable about basic confidentiality requirements for working with students with disabilities.
- Learn the basic requirements of FERPA for serving students with disabilities in the school setting.
- Understand the intent of HIPAA and its effect on schools.
- Highlight the paraeducator's role in maintaining confidentiality.

PLN 212 – Further Strategies for Supporting Students with Speech or Language Impairments

The participant will...

- Understand the definitions of different language impairments.
- Identify ways to treat a student's communication disorder.
- Learn the sequence of successful learning for a student with language delays.
- Discover ways to improve listening skills to increase language skills in the classroom.

PLN 213 – Helping vs. Hovering: How to Avoid the “Helicopter” Effect

The participant will...

- Learn basic information about adult support in the school environment.
- Define the basics of self-sufficiency.
- Identify ways to promote student self-sufficiency in the school environment.

PLN 214 – Using Discrete Trial Teaching in the Classroom

The participant will...

- Identify and understand the components of a discrete trial.
- Review an example in which discrete trial teaching is used to teach a student the skill of imitation.
- Explore the advantages and disadvantages of using discrete trial teaching within the classroom setting.

PLN 215 – Mathematics: Factors and Multiples

The participant will...

- Describe classes of numbers according to their characteristics, such as the nature of their factors.
- Review the concepts of factors and factorials.
- Define the concepts of prime numbers and composites.
- Examine the concepts of prime factorization and relatively prime numbers.
- Discuss rules of divisibility.
- Identify the concepts of multiples, greatest common factors, and least common multiples.

PLN 216 – Supporting Adolescents Who Have Learning Disabilities in Writing

The participant will...

- Understand how learning disabilities affect writing skills.
- Learn about the emotional impact that adolescent learners with learning disabilities in writing may experience.
- Identify positive, daily interventions for adolescents with learning disabilities in writing.

PLN 217 – A Look at the Impact of Poverty

The participant will...

- Identify a working definition of poverty.
- Learn about the survival skills and hidden rules you need to know at different standards of living.
- Debunk the myths associated with the poor.
- Gain basic information related to factors that impact students living in poverty.
- Define how poverty can affect student achievement.
- Address the importance of building relationships with students who live in poverty.

PLN 218 – Signs of Abuse or Neglect: What Paraeducators Need to Know

The participant will...

- Identify consequences of abuse or neglect for the victims.
- Define the problems of abuse and neglect.
- Discover how often abuse and neglect occur.
- Learn the different types of child abuse and neglect.
- Understand the signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect.
- Discuss the reporting guidelines and the process for reporting abuse or neglect.

PLN 219 – Teaching Students About the Hidden Curriculum

The participant will...

- Demonstrate an understanding of what the hidden curriculum is.
- Learn why the hidden curriculum must be taught to students with challenges in social skills, such as autism spectrum disorders.
- Identify the components of the hidden curriculum.
- Gain an awareness of social situations and settings in which students may have difficulties with the hidden curriculum.
- Discover information related to strategies and resources that are available to assist with teaching the hidden curriculum.

PLN 220 – Frequency Modulated (FM) Systems

The participant will...

- Identify acoustic barriers that affect students with hearing loss in the classroom.
- Discover the importance of classroom acoustics.
- Describe the effects of classroom acoustics on students with hearing loss.
- Understand the purpose of FM systems and the benefits of having a personal FM system.
- Learn appropriate use and general troubleshooting techniques for personal FM systems.

PLN 221 – Helping Middle School Students Improve Organization Skills

The participant will...

- Understand the rationale for structure in learning.
- Learn basic information for helping students organize materials.
- Discover simple ways to help students organize tasks.
- Identify techniques for keeping students' environments organized.

PLN 222 – The Importance of Assessments in Special Education

The participant will...

- Learn terminology associated with assessments.
- Identify the importance of collecting baseline data.
- Pinpoint ways to use assessment data to determine present levels of performance.
- Assess the types of data that are used to show and monitor progress.
- Discover how different types of assessment can influence student learning.
- Explain why assessments are important sources of information for those who teach and support students with special needs.

PLN 223 – Bullying Awareness, Prevention, and Intervention

The participant will...

- Gain a practical understanding of the issue of bullying.
- Identify the different players in a bullying situation.
- Develop strategies for preventing bullying from occurring in the school setting.
- Learn how to intervene and address bullying when it does occur.

PLN 224 – Stars

The participant will...

- Survey the life cycle of stars.

- Develop an understanding of electromagnetic radiation.
- Investigate how astronomers use spectroscopy to study stars.
- Identify how astronomers classify stars.
- Explore characteristics of constellations.

PLN 225 – Implementing Visual Supports for Students with Developmental Disabilities

The participant will...

- Learn the need for visual supports.
- Be able to define visual supports.
- Understand the benefits of using visual supports in the classroom.
- Identify types of visual supports for scheduling.
- Discover a variety of visual supports for basic communication needs.
- Become familiar with types of visual supports for student organization.
- Identify visual supports to assist with student behaviors.

PLN 226 – Understanding Common Concerns of Families of Individuals with Disabilities

The participant will...

- Develop an understanding of the common concerns faced by families of individuals with disabilities.
- Become aware that parents want educators to have high expectations for their children with disabilities.
- Learn what actions school staff can take to address safety concerns of parents.
- Understand an educator's role in helping positively shape the attitudes of others toward individuals with disabilities.
- Identify ways to ease transitions for students with disabilities and their families.

PLN 227 – Understanding ADHD and the Role of the Paraeducator

The participant will...

- Learn the definition and characteristics of ADHD.
- Identify the symptoms of ADHD.
- Discover the prevalence of ADHD.
- Investigate the various treatment approaches for ADHD.
- Learn the best ways to provide paraeducator support to students with ADHD.
- Identify the best accommodation ideas for supporting students with ADHD.
- Identify instructional techniques that are appropriate for paraeducators to use in assisting students with ADHD.

PLN 228 – Early Childhood Development: Early Literacy

The participant will...

- Learn about early literacy and how it develops during the preschool years.
- Develop an understanding of the important skills and abilities that have a direct link to a child's future success with reading and writing.
- Identify important characteristics of a literacy-rich environment for young children.
- Discover instructional practices that can enhance early literacy skills.
- Learn specific strategies used in teaching oral language skills.
- Explore activities that support the development of phonological awareness.
- Discover ways to support print awareness and alphabet knowledge.

PLN 229 – Understanding Down Syndrome, Tourette Syndrome, and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

The participant will...

- Be introduced to several syndromes and discover how they affect the education of students who have them.
- Develop an understanding of Down Syndrome and the specific effects the syndrome may have on the education of students who have it.
- Learn about Tourette Syndrome and the educational impact it may have for students with this syndrome.
- Gain information about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and how the student may be impacted educationally.
- Understand the educator's role in assisting students who have the various syndromes so they progress educationally.

PLN 230 – Assisting Students on the School Bus

The participant will...

- Develop an understanding of what responsibilities he or she has for students with disabilities while on the school bus.
- Become aware of the types of disabilities that a student may have and how they might affect his or her behavior on the bus.
- Learn the types of specialized equipment a student with a disability may require during transportation and the correct operational processes for that equipment.
- Understand the loading and unloading process.
- Identify types of emergencies that can occur on the school bus and the process for handling an emergency.

PLN 231 – Early Childhood Development: Early Math

The participant will...

- Learn about early math and why a focus on math skills is important for the preschool child.
- Develop an understanding of what is included in mathematical content for young children.
- Identify important mathematical vocabulary to use when teaching and interacting with young children.
- Explore the role of adults in high quality early childhood mathematics education.
- Discover ways to support early math learning within the context of classroom learning centers.

PLN 232 – Supporting Career Exploration for Students with Disabilities

The participant will...

- Develop an understanding of the tools used in career exploration.
- Discuss the steps for creating community-based vocational training programs.
- Understand the role of the job coach or paraeducator when working with students at community job sites.
- Discover how to document the progress of students in vocational training programs.
- Understand how to maintain positive relationships at community job sites.
- Learn the best way to deliver feedback to parents regarding their child's performance in vocational training programs.

PLN 233 – Early Childhood Development: Early Science

The participant will...

- Learn about early science and why a focus on inquiry-based learning is important for the preschool child.
- Develop an understanding of the components of a quality science program for young children.
- Explore the scientific method and how to help young children begin thinking and problem solving scientifically.
- Discover how to plan and organize successful science discoveries within the early childhood classroom.
- Examine the various content areas which are developmentally appropriate for preschoolers who are engaged in an early science curriculum focus.

PLN 234 – Building and Maintaining Respectful Relationships with Students

The participant will...

- Understand why respectful relationships with students are important.
- Distinguish between academic and behavioral guidance.
- Learn ways to communicate academic guidance.
- Develop an understanding of implementing behavioral guidance.
- Identify techniques to build positive relationships with students.
- Explore ways to remain objective and overcome bias when working with students.

PLN 235 – Helping Students Become Successful Readers

The participant will...

- Develop an understanding of early literacy and the skills necessary for a student to be able to read successfully.
- Learn how to increase students' understanding of print with a focus on motivation and awareness.
- Examine ways to support phonological awareness in beginning readers.
- Become familiar with phonemic awareness in beginning readers.

- Learn strategies for teaching sight word vocabulary in beginning readers.
- Explore reading fluency skills in beginning readers.
- Identify the strategies a student can use to decode unknown words.
- Discover ways to support vocabulary development in beginning readers.
- Identify techniques to support students' reading comprehension.
- Become aware of ways to encourage students in becoming independent, lifelong readers.

PLN 236 – What Is Response to Intervention (RtI)?

The participant will...

- Define RtI and describe an RtI model.
- Identify the differences among the three tiers of RtI.
- Describe the advantages of using an RtI model.
- Identify the essential components of RtI.
- Understand the marriage of special education and general education through an RtI model (“Every Ed”).
- Discuss the changing role of the paraeducator and identify some major paraeducator RtI responsibilities.