

Miami Dade College - School of Education

EDF 2090 – Current Issues in Education: the Role of the Paraprofessional

Course Description

3 credits

This course is designed to present an overview of the changing role of the paraprofessional in education. It provides current information about employment requirements as well as state, district and school policies. It explores the legal and ethical issues related to the paraprofessional involvement with teachers, students, parents, and administration. Students taking this course will become familiar with a variety of documentation used in the classroom environment to record learner behavior in grades K-12.

Course Competencies

Competency 1: The student will gain an understanding of the legal and ethical issues involved in the role of the paraprofessional within the school setting by:

- a. identifying Florida Statutes as they pertain to paraprofessionals.
- b. discussing the District's Professional Code of Ethics.
- c. giving examples that illustrate the District's Student Code of Ethics.
- d. explaining the Miami-Dade County Public Schools District Contract as it pertains to the paraprofessional's role.
- e. outlining Human Resources policies, procedures, and regulations as they relate to paraprofessionals.

Competency 2: The student will demonstrate knowledge of state, district, and school policy requirements by:

- a. analyzing the ramifications of the No Child Left Behind Act, including the Florida response.
- b. identifying the important features of the ESOL Endorsement as mandated by the META Consent Decree.

Competency 3: The student will demonstrate knowledge of role expectations of the paraprofessional position relative to teachers, administrators, learners, and parents by:

- a. outlining the development of the role of the paraprofessional in the American Educational System.
- b. discussing the role of the paraprofessional as support of the administration's school-wide policies and procedures.
- c. summarizing the important aspects of classroom procedures and academic and instructional objectives.
- d. explaining the role of the paraprofessional as part of a team serving the needs of learners.
- e. role playing scenarios as liaison between teacher, parent and learner.

Competency 4: The student will be able to observe, document, and report learner behavior by:

- a. examining standard documents used to record learner behavior.
- b. documenting learner's performance.
- c. typing, proofreading, and filing documents used to record learner behavior.
- d. creating a contact database to record parent conferences, referrals, and anecdotal information.
- e. identifying functional assessment activities.

Competency 5: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the diverse record keeping activities in the classroom by:

- a. identifying technology applications that facilitate record keeping of learner performance and attendance.
- b. grading test using an answer key.
- c. entering and reviewing records.
- d. performing test item analysis.

Competency 6: The student will be able to support the effective discipline and classroom management strategies established by the school and the classroom teacher by:

- a. describing the daily classroom routine.
- b. collecting and reporting examples of individual and small group learning activities.
- c. identifying and describing classroom management strategies.

Competency 7: The student will be able to participate as a fully contributing member of a team by:

- a. explaining the team's goals and its relationship to the school-site.
- b. role playing appropriate responses to criticism from supervisor or other persons.
- c. describing acceptable work and health habits.

Competency 8: The student will be able to apply technology in the school, classroom and professional practice by:

- a. researching information on strategies to support instruction.
- b. compiling web-based lesson plans to support instruction.
- c. implementing computer-based instruction in the classroom.

Competency 9: The student will demonstrate employability skills by:

- a. conducting traditional and electronic job search.
- b. requesting information about a job.
- c. completing and identifying documents required for a job application.
- d. role playing job interview techniques.