

**Research-Based
Professional Learning That
Strengthens Systems,
Clarifies Roles,
and Improves
Paraeducator
Effectiveness**

BUILDING DISTRICT CAPACITY TO TRAIN AND SUPPORT PARAEDUCATORS

THE CHALLENGE FACING SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Paraeducators are a critical and rapidly growing segment of the education workforce. Yet many districts face: limited clarity around paraeducator roles and responsibilities; insufficient preparation and ongoing support for teachers and administrators who supervise paraeducators; and minimal access to targeted, high-quality professional learning designed specifically for paraeducators.

THE RESULT: inconsistent practice, underutilized staff, and reduced instructional effectiveness

THE SOLUTION: strategic, research-based professional learning for both paraeducators and the licensed professionals who direct their work offered by the Paraprofessional Resource & Research Center (PAR²A Center) at the University of Colorado Denver

DISTRICT-BASED TRAINING OPTIONS

1. CO-TOP: Comprehensive Training of Paraeducators

A sustainable, research-based Train-the-Trainer (TOT) model for paraeducator training and supervision.

Why districts choose CO-TOP:

- Builds internal district capacity, reducing reliance on external trainers
- Uses standards-based CO-TOP curriculum and instructional resources
- Promotes consistent, high-quality practice across schools and programs
- Designed to be scalable and adaptable to diverse district contexts

Format: Two to three days | In person or via Zoom

Audience: General and special education teachers, related service providers, administrators, and other licensed professionals

* Most cost-effective and sustainable district option

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2. Customized Professional Development for Paraeducators

Targeted professional development aligned with district priorities, with flexible selection from a comprehensive CO-TOP topic library.

Audience: Paraeducators

* This option strengthens instructional skills, collaboration, and professional confidence.

3. Asynchronous Paraeducator Training

Flexible, on-demand learning ideal for onboarding and ongoing professional development in core instructional strategies and behavior management.

Audience: Paraeducators

UPCOMING SUMMER 2026 IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS

- *Paraeducator Supervision Academy* for teachers and administrators to equip them with essential knowledge and practical skills for supervising, coaching and supporting paraeducators on June 03 and July 22. Learn more and register: <https://education.ucdenver.edu/continuing-education/professional-development/#paraeducator-supervision-academy>
- *Instructional Strategies for Special Education and General Education Paraeducators* on June 26 and July 17. Learn more and register: <https://education.ucdenver.edu/continuing-education/professional-development/instructional-strategies-for-paraeducators>
- *Supporting Challenging Behaviors* for Special Education and General Education Paraeducators on June 26 and July 17. Learn more and register: <https://education.ucdenver.edu/continuing-education/professional-development/cu-this-summer/supporting-students-with-challenging-behavior>

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