



OPEPP Headlines May 2021

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OPEPP Spring 2021 Virtual Academy

The OPEPP Spring 2021 Virtual Academy was a huge success! Over 100 paraprofessionals, general education teachers, intervention specialists, human resource professionals, state support team members, and individuals representing building and district leadership attended “*Reading, Rocket Science, & the Role of Paraprofessionals*,” an outstanding professional learning session led by Michelle Elia, Ohio Literacy Lead for the Ohio Department of Education. Participants practiced strategies to implement reading instruction and intervention aligned to the science of reading to advance students’ literacy development. A recording of the Academy can be viewed here: [OPEPP Spring Academy Recording](#). Many thanks to Michelle and all who attended!



CPS Maximizes Use of OPEPP Resources

As the Cincinnati Public School District closes out its first year of partnership with OPEPP, their OPEPP team, with support from district leadership, has documented their efforts through the creation of “*Celebrating and Supporting Our CPS Paraprofessionals*,” a video highlighting the valuable role their paraprofessionals play in their students’ success. You can find the video [here](#). Thank you to Assistant Superintendent **Susan Bunte**; Career Development Specialist & OPEPP Team Lead **Allyson Richer**; and paraprofessionals **Marnita Woolfork, Justin Drew, Bouchra Belcadi, Rosa Burke, and Dawn Kurchak** for showcasing your paraprofessionals!



Professional Learning Opportunities 2021-2022

OPEPP is pleased to offer 2021-2022 online workshops to assist school districts in more effectively using paraprofessional services to support student learning. Paraprofessionals, teacher-parapro teams, and other district, school, and agency personnel are invited to participate. All workshops offer a combination of synchronous (Zoom) and asynchronous learning opportunities. Some workshops are “flipped,” meaning that participants read materials in advance of each Zoom session. Contact hours are provided for participants who attend Zoom sessions and complete workshop assignments. A general calendar is provided below; specific dates and times for each workshop will be forthcoming.



MONTH	WORKSHOP TOPIC
July	
August	Supporting Paraprofessionals through Mentoring
September	Behavior Management
October	Helping with Instruction
November	Developing Cultural Competency
December	
January	Trauma-informed Practice
February	Parapros Who Work as Interveners
March	Helping Students Read
April	What Do You Sense: An Overview of the Seven Primary Senses
May	
June	

Stories from the Field

Sandusky City School District chose to partner with the OPEPP project in 2020-2021. Led by Dr. Megan Peugeot, Director of Student Services and Family Support, the Sandusky OPEPP team chose to focus this year's efforts on clarifying roles and expectations for the district's parapros, as well as providing them targeted professional learning that enables them to better meet needs of all learners, from preschool through high school.

The Sandusky OPEPP team meets each month with their OPEPP consultant, Linda Bass-Johnoff, who has guided their efforts, including developing a needs assessment and a staff survey, as well as establishing goals for their uses of parapros and implementation of action steps that will lead the team to reach its goals. The meeting protocols used by the OPEPP team have helped them plan their work and stay on track with their progress. The team's efforts have resulted in the development of a paraprofessional training manual for 2021-2022 for newly hired paraprofessionals, as well as a guide for ongoing training opportunities each year.



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