2026-27 FREE Virtual Sessions for Paras and those who lead Paras

Summer Study on Supporting Paras

July 8-29, 2026*

Supporting Paraeducators in Special Education and Inclusive Settings

Emily Sobeck, PhD | 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

*Designed for **school leaders** and **educators who support paraprofessionals***

**Sessions will take place on the following Wednesdays: July 8, 15, 22, & 29*

TAKE A PEEK

Paras
Explore
Educational
Knowledge

August 18, 2026

Behavior Management

Renee Mattson, PhD

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

September 23, 2026

Sensory Processing & Behavior

Elena Krikorian, OT

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

October 21, 2026

T.I.P.S for Relationships

Sheri McClurg

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

November 9, 2026

Helping with Instruction

Sheri McClurg

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

March 10, 2027

Helping Students Read

Lindsey Roush, EdD

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

April 14, 2027

Paras as Interveners

Libby Westerman

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

May 12, 2027

Fading Supports

Elena Krikorian, OT

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

*Designed for **paraprofessionals** and **educators who support paraprofessionals***

Leadership Lunch and Learn

January 12, 2027

Supporting Paras through Mentoring

Kathleen Scott, PhD

11:00 AM -1:00 PM

April 6, 2027

Evaluation of Paraeducators

Sheri McClurg and Kathleen Scott, PhD

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

*Designed for **school leaders** and **educators who support paraprofessionals***

These ZOOM sessions will be led by experts in the field to share key concepts on the topic. Our time together will be spent learning and engaging with the content and with each other through reflective breakout sessions. Participants who attend the full session and participate in the breakout room reflections can earn a certificate for contact hours per session.

REGISTER NOW!

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Ohio Partnership for Excellence in Paraprofessional Preparation

OPEPP

TAKE A PEEK: Paras Explore Educational Knowledge
2026-27 FREE Virtual Sessions for Paras

TAKE A PEEK
Paras Explore Educational Knowledge

*These sessions are designed for **paraprofessionals** and **educators who support paraprofessionals***

Tuesday,
August 18, 2026

Behavior Management

Renee Mattson, PhD
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

The "Behavior Management" TAKE A PEEK session educates paraprofessionals on behavior management aspects, including behavior functions, antecedents, consequences, sensory systems, and intervention strategies. It offers practical methods to promote positive behaviors and reduce problematic ones, stresses tips for relationships, data analysis, and the development of Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs). The goal is to empower paraeducators to actively contribute to behavior management teams and foster supportive learning environments for all students.

Wednesday,
September 23, 2026

Sensory Processing & Behavior

Elena Krikorian, OT
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

This TAKE A PEEK session focuses on the sensory system, consisting of eight senses, which is vital for daily functioning, helping individuals navigate needs, and process experiences. If one sense is impaired, others compensate to maintain balance; however, dysfunction can disrupt the nervous system. Understanding these sensory interactions is key to supporting students with sensory processing disorder in developing effective strategies for success and independence.

Wednesday,
October 21, 2026

T.I.P.S for Relationships

Sheri McClurg
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

This TAKE A PEEK session is for instructional team members who seek to understand how relationship building positively impacts learning and behavior. This workshop offers guidance about how paraprofessionals can collaborate with teachers to meet students' social, emotional, and behavioral needs while helping students learn.

These 2-hour ZOOM sessions will be led by experts in the field to share key concepts on the topic. Our time together will be spent learning and engaging with the content and with each other through reflective breakout sessions. Participants who attend the full session and participate in the breakout room reflections can earn a certificate for 2 contact hours per session.

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TAKE A PEEK: Paras Explore Educational Knowledge

2026-27 FREE Virtual Sessions for Paras

Monday,
November 9, 2026

Helping with Instruction

Sheri McClurg

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

This TAKE A PEEK session supports paraprofessionals' instruction and growth. It covers Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles and provides guidance on collaborating with instructional teams. It is organized into clear, focused topics on instruction including scaffolding, explicit instruction, visual supports for learners, and test taking supports. The session emphasizes evidence-based practices in education.

Wednesday,
March 10, 2027

Helping Students Read

Lindsey Roush, EdD

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

This TAKE A PEEK session focuses on key ideas, drawn from the latest research and science of reading approaches, to support literacy growth across the grade levels. Paraprofessionals who participate in this session will have knowledge and confidence to support the teaching of reading as part of a student's instructional team and do so with approaches that mirror Ohio's literacy initiatives.

Wednesday,
April 14, 2027

Paras as Interveners

Libby Westerman

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Interveners offer one-on-one support to students with dual sensory impairment. This TAKE A PEEK session equips paraprofessionals with the knowledge and skills to help children with dual sensory impairment achieve their learning goals. Participants will learn approaches and techniques that can support effective communication, active participation, and equal access for children who are DeafBlind.

Wednesday,
May 12, 2027

Fading Supports

Elena Krikorian OT

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

This TAKE A PEEK session will focus on fading supports which involves gradually reducing the support provided to students, promoting their independence and social inclusion. Paraprofessionals primarily focus on offering academic and behavioral assistance to students with disabilities. While some tasks require ongoing support, others need a gradual decrease in engagement to foster independence.

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Leadership Lunch and Learn

2026-27 FREE Virtual Sessions for Leaders

*These sessions are designed for **school leaders** and **educators who support paraprofessionals***

Tuesday, January 12, 2027

Supporting Paras through Mentoring

Kathleen Scott, PhD

11:00 AM -1:00 PM

This Leadership Lunch and Learn is designed for educators who supervise or mentor paraeducators, such as interventionists, teachers, and pupil services directors. It covers principles of mentoring based on adult learning and paraeducator roles, focusing on relationship building, communication, feedback, professionalism, formative assessment, and observation. Organized sequentially, each unit addresses key mentoring elements. Effective mentoring, defined as a collaborative relationship supporting mutual growth, is crucial for enhancing educator effectiveness and, consequently, student achievement.

Tuesday, April 6, 2027

Evaluation of Paraeducators

Sheri McClurg and

Kathleen Scott, PhD

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

This Leadership Lunch and Learn targets educators supervising paraeducators, focusing on creating meaningful evaluation systems that reflect their instructional roles. It emphasizes formative assessment, ongoing feedback, and alignment with established competencies. Participants will learn from Ohio-based teams about tools prioritizing coaching, data-informed decisions, and continuous professional growth over annual ratings. Best practices in collaborative evaluation, including teacher input and self-assessment, are highlighted as vital for enhancing paraeducator effectiveness and improving student outcomes.

These 2-hour ZOOM sessions will be led by experts in the field to share key concepts on the topic. Our time together will be spent learning and engaging with the content and with each other through reflective breakout sessions. Participants who attend the full session and participate in the breakout room reflections can earn a certificate for 2 contact hours per session.

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