



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

February 14, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Training Guidelines for Paraprofessionals Assigned to Work with a Teacher who has Primary Oversight of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders

The *Code of Virginia* § 22.1-298.3 requires each school board, by September 1, 2014, to ensure that paraprofessionals assigned to work with a teacher who has primary oversight of students with autism spectrum disorders receive training in student behavioral management within 60 days of assignment to such responsibility. Training standards for paraprofessionals assigned to a teacher who has primary oversight of students with autism spectrum disorders were approved by the Board of Education on January 10, 2013. Refer to Superintendent's Memo #045-13, dated February 15, 2013.

The document, *Training Guidelines for Paraprofessionals Assigned to Work with a Teacher who has Primary Oversight of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders*, is intended to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) as they work to address training for paraprofessionals. The Guidelines provide information on the requirements and best practices for implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the training of paraprofessionals. The Guidelines should be used in conjunction with existing regulations and are not intended to replace any existing regulation or policy.

Questions about the Guidelines can be directed to: Erin Smydra, specialist in the Office of Special Education Instructional Services, 804-371-7421, or erin.smydra@doe.virginia.gov.

PIW/dj

Attachment:

- a. [Training Guidelines for Paraprofessionals Assigned to Work with a Teacher who has Primary Oversight of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders](#) (PDF)