

Paras, Parents, and Privacy

Presented by: Toni Anderson WDE



Approaching Your Year Confidently

- Setting up the classroom - Physical space is important, but take time to set up mental space as well! Ask yourself some important questions:
 - How do I set expectations so that my coworkers, students, and parents perceive me how I want them to?
 - How can I maintain a growth mindset while also being confident in my ability?
 - How can I confidently ask questions?

Creating a Supportive Environment

A positive and supportive environment doesn't start with your students - it starts with the interactions you have with your peers. So who is that now?

- Classroom teachers
- Paraprofessionals
- Parents

Parents

Students form opinions based on their parents'/guardians' opinions

Set up regular communication with parents

- Respect their preferences

- Be open and honest with them

- Transparency is paramount

Paraprofessionals

How do we supervise students, as well as coworkers?

There is information that they absolutely must have:

- Goals
- Accommodations
- data collection
- behavior intervention plans and/or environmental supports

If you are expecting them to work with students on these things, they should know about them

Classroom Teachers

Every teacher will have their own style, preferences, and expectations. It is important to respect that and have clear communication from the start.

- Ask lots of questions!
- Develop collaborative relationships
- Respect areas of expertise and the necessity of dissenting opinions

Administrators

Forewarning - not all administrators have in-depth knowledge about special education, sped laws, recent changes; be willing to ask questions, but also to learn with them.

When possible have conversations with administrators preparing them for what is coming, potential difficult spots in annual meetings, problematic behaviors, etc.

Disagreements - The Inevitable

Always ask questions!

- When a teacher disagrees with accommodations, because it will happen, how do we approach it?
- When students and teachers don't get along, how do we mediate?
- When we have differing philosophies and perspectives from the paraprofessionals we work with, what do we do?

How do we...

Processes to become familiar with, or ask about:

- Record keeping
- Scheduling processes etc.
- Making schedules, or schedule changes
-

But what about...

Some special circumstances

- Manifestation Determination
- IDEA Guardian
- Advocacy groups/representatives
- Placement and LRE - when is it a change of placement?
- Service providers

And what if...

A student transfers in?

There are services on the IEP that we don't currently have/offer/service?

A student has a behavior plan, or needs a behavior plan?

Who can I include on the IEP team?

A parent requests something we don't normally do?

Confidentiality - Things to keep in mind

District Employees

Parents

Other Students

Accidental breach of confidentiality

Contact Information

Toni Anderson

toni.anderson@wyo.gov