

SKYCTC Adult Education Cheers to Us!

Abstract

After reviewing data and potential methods to increase MSGs for the calendar year, our PLC reviewed workforce data and decided to develop an IET to focus on paraeducator certifications. Our school systems in Barren, Metcalfe, Simpson, and Warren Counties have partnered with our adult education programs for several years to administer the paraeducator exam. Therefore, this was a logical partnership to enhance the training which would mutually benefit both the school systems and our programs.

Introduction

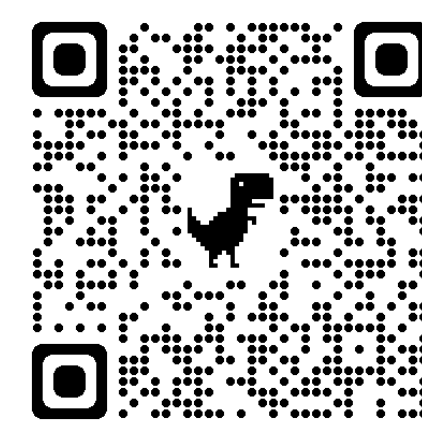
Prior to our first PLC meeting we were asked, "For which workforce sectors do you believe we could develop an IET/WPL?" During the Sprint #1 PLC meeting, we reviewed the responses, the current data for previous year, and looked at our workforce data for trends in needed employment in our workforce region. We saw a need for additional paraeducators in the public school systems in our service region.

We developed an essential question to frame our SMART goal, "Would creating an IET in coordination with the K-12 educational system focusing on passing the paraeducator exam increase our MSG attainment by 10% from the same time period of the previous year?" After reviewing the data, our focus was increasing MSGs because individuals seeking paraeducator certification would already have a high school diploma or GED. The paraeducator exam also better correlates to the TABE assessment in math and reading versus the GED test.

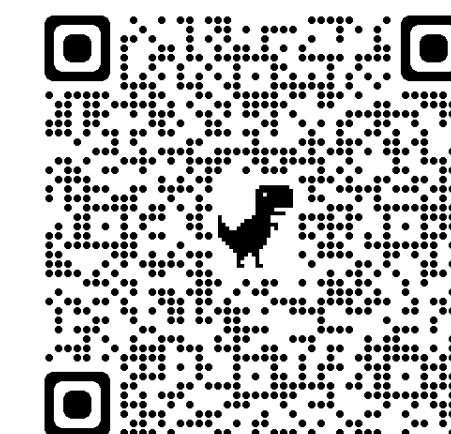
Product Description & Motivation

In developing the paraeducator IET, we created a Paraeducator Individual Learning Plan for each student; and an extensive paraeducator syllabus which includes SSLOs and modules that can be taught consecutively or individually based on the student's individual learning plan (see QR code for documents below). The intent of the IET was to prepare individuals who did not pass the initial paraeducator exam the first time - to pass the second attempt of the exam as well as have some classroom knowledge and digital literacy skills

Individual Learning Plan



Syllabus



Course Content Outline



Baseline & Goal

Our SMART goal essential question for our PLC product was, "Would creating an IET in coordination with the K-12 educational system focusing on passing the paraeducator exam increase our MSG attainment by 10% from the same time period of the previous year?"

- Baseline for our MSGs for 2020, 2021 and 2022 were 94, 35 and 218, respectively. Averaged and increased by 10%. **Expected to have 12 individuals attend and pass paraeducator**
- Total Q3 2023 MSG goal = **MSG GOAL 128**
- As of April 14, 2023 = **MSGs attained 163**

Results

We had various issues in regard to our IET which affected the results and implementation:

- Numerous changes in the IET development process; therefore, was resubmitted and not approved until February, 2023.
- Upon scheduling with training partner to implement in March, we were notified our IET was inadvertently approved by KYAE.
- We were seeking a third-party training partner, and originally been told SKYCTC could be a Kentucky Eligible Training Provider.

GOOD NEWS!!! SKYCTC had previously established a partnership with the school systems wherein we provided the paraeducator assessment for referrals to adult education programs for testing.

As of April 30, 2023:

- **22 paraeducator exams have been administered**
- **16 individuals have passed the exam**
- **12 was our expected number to increase students' achieving their paraeducator**
- **WE ACHIEVED OUR GOAL!**



Discussion

Our PLC team felt like we would have been very successful if the Paraeducator IET had been approved at the beginning of FY 2023. However, due to many delays in approval, changes in processes, and inconsistent information, we had an inadequate time frame to implement the IET. Furthermore, we were told, after final approval, that our IET was inadvertently approved and needed further revision. Nevertheless, we are glad that we continued with our practice of administering the paraeducator exam even in the absence of an approved IET.

Conclusions

Had our IET been approved in a timely manner, we believe we would have been successful in increasing our MSG's by more than 10% with the IET proposed.

- Initial IET/WPL training, we were instructed we had six months to develop an IET, but this was not the case.
- A significant modification we recommend is to develop an IET prior to the start of a fiscal year
- Engage a training partner who willing to be flexible in creating the partnership and want to provide training
- Implement in the IET at significant points during the year to yield success for our students and training partner.
- Track data for a full fiscal year

We are committed in implementing the Paraeducator IET and will work toward this in FY 2024.

References & Acknowledgements

Acknowledgments: Thank you to all the PLC members and their participation in the PLC process.