

Education of Students Who are Visually Impaired: Strategies and Techniques for Paraprofessionals in Academic Programs

Paraprofessionals working with students who are visually impaired need additional training and an understanding of how visual impairments affect student learning. This one-day session of interactive activities is designed to assist paraprofessionals working with students with visual impairments in academic programs, preschool through grade 12. Through vision simulations and demonstrations, participants will become familiar with techniques, specialized materials, and other available resources to improve outcomes for students with visual impairments or blindness.

In order to improve outcomes for students, participants will:

- develop an awareness of the functional implications of the visual loss of the student served by the paraprofessional;
- review Braille code, Braille instruction, and Braille production tools through a general orientation;
- gain an awareness of the safety and mobility challenges of individual students and identify the basics of sighted guide and cane techniques; and
- review guidelines and tools for modifying materials and activities for students with visual impairments or blindness so as to enhance student achievement, thereby improving outcomes.

This is collaborative effort between the State of Connecticut's Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB), Division of Children's Services, and SERC.

Date, Time, Location:

Friday, September 28, 2007
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
BESB, Windsor

Presenters:

Education Consultants from
Connecticut's Board of Education and
Services for the Blind (BESB)

Audience: PreK-Grade 12

Fifty (50) paraprofessionals
working with students who are visually
impaired or blind

CEUs: None

Certificate of Attendance will be awarded.

Registration Fee:

\$20.00 per person
Payable to Rensselaer at Hartford
Payment is due prior to the session
upon confirmation of participation.

Questions/ Special Needs:

Contact: Karyn Champion
Education Services Specialist
(860) 632-1485, ext. 225

Register By:

Tuesday, September 18, 2007



www.ctserc.org



Initiative on Students with Visual and Hearing Impairments

Please return application to SERC, VI/Hi Initiative, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457-1520. Participants will be selected on a first come, first served basis with regional consideration. Applicants will receive written confirmation regarding participation shortly after the registration closing date. The registration fee is payable upon notice of acceptance.

APPLICATION FORM: **Paras/Students with Visual Impairments** (08-38-006 – FN/VI/Hi)kc (Please print clearly.)

District/Region _____ School/Program _____ Work Phone () _____

Name _____ Home Phone () _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Position/Role _____ Grade Level _____ Email (Please Print.) _____

Release time is approved for educators: Administrator's Signature is required _____

In which region do you receive/provide services? ACES // CES // CREC // EASTCONN // ED CONNECTION // LEARN

Please indicate if special accommodations for this workshop are required (please check all that apply):

Sign language interpreter Preferential seating Materials in large print Materials in Braille Other (please specify) _____