

the Para**e**ducator

Learning Network™

Quick
Reference Guide

**Course
Catalog &
Objectives**



THE
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INTRODUCTION

The ParaEducator Learning Network™ currently has over 125 one-hour professional development courses available for paraeducators. In this document, you'll find course information organized in two ways:

- 1) Course titles displayed by topic category and subcategory.
- 2) Course titles and objectives for each course organized in numerical order for quick reference.

PLN COURSE CATALOG

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND / TITLE I

CONTENT AREA INSTRUCTION: READING, WRITING, AND MATH

- 118 Supporting Instruction: Reading
- 119 Supporting Instruction: Writing
- 120 Supporting Instruction: Mathematics
- 162 Supporting Reading Instruction in Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics (Part I)
- 163 Supporting Reading Instruction in Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics (Part II)
- 170 Assisting Struggling Readers with Their Textbook Assignments

CONTENT AREA KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS: READING AND WRITING

- 130 Reading Comprehension: Narrative Texts
- 131 Reading Comprehension: Informative Texts
- 132 Reading Comprehension: Decoding Language and Utilizing Layout
- 133 Writing Fundamentals: Parts of Speech and Effective Sentences
- 134 Writing Fundamentals: Mechanics of Writing

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- 135 Mathematics: Understanding the Basic Skills
- 136 Mathematics: Fractions, Decimals, and Percentages
- 137 Basic Algebra
- 138 Basic Geometry
- 139 Basic Data Analysis
- 185 Basic Data Analysis II
- 187 Basic Algebra II: Patterns and Equations
- 188 Basic Algebra II: Graphing, Proportions, and Ratios
- 189 Basic Geometry II: Angles and Triangles
- 190 Basic Geometry II: Circles and Transformations
- 192 Probability
- 196 Mathematics: Properties and Integers
- 199 Customary Systems of Measurement
- 200 Metric Systems of Measurement
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- 183 Introduction to Earth Science: Geology and Astronomy
- 184 Introduction to Earth Science: Meteorology and Oceanography
- 186 Teaching the Scientific Method
- 191 Introduction to Life Science
- 194 Geologic History
- 195 Human Body Systems
- 207 Life Science: Reproduction and Heredity
- 224 Stars *NEW!*

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- 101 Understanding Inclusion
- 102 The First Day on the Job
- 103 Confidentiality
- 104 Understanding the Many Types of Special Programs
- 107 Individual Student and Program Information
- 111 Paraeducator Roles and Responsibilities in Inclusive Classrooms
- 149 Assisting Students in the Development of Social Skills
- 150 Transition: Building Skills for a Successful Adulthood
- 203 Characteristics of Young Adolescents
- 211 Confidentiality II: FERPA and HIPAA
- 219 Teaching Students About the Hidden Curriculum *NEW!*
- 223 Bullying Awareness, Prevention, and Intervention *NEW!*

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

- 110 Classroom and Behavior Management
- 123 Implementing and Monitoring Behavior Intervention Plans
- 124 Providing Positive Behavioral Supports for Individual Students
- 160 Supporting Students with Attentional Concerns
- 161 Supporting Students Who Are Noncompliant
- 169 Strategies to Defuse a Defiant Student
- 182 Managing a Student in Crisis
- 197 Student Behavior: Noncompliance and Being Out of Seat
- 198 Student Behavior: Inappropriate Language and Inappropriate Touching
- 206 Student Behavior: Property Destruction and Self Injury

SUPPORTING CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

- 116 Classroom Instructional Arrangements
- 121 Supporting Organizational Skill Development
- 158 The Roles of Paraeducators in Promoting Active Learning
- 159 Assisting Students with Work Completion
- 179 Community-Based Instruction
- 201 Brain-Based Learning (Part I)
- 202 Brain-Based Learning (Part II)
- 205 Encouraging Student Response and Engagement
- 213 Helping vs. Hovering: How to Avoid the “Helicopter” Effect
- 214 Using Discrete Trial Teaching in the Classroom
- 221 Helping Middle School Students Improve Organization Skills *NEW!*

ACADEMIC AND BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT

- 114 Monitoring Student Progress
- 117 Taking Instructional or Behavioral Data
- 222 The Importance of Assessments in Special Education *NEW!*

ACCOMMODATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

- 108 Introduction to Accommodations and Modifications
- 109 Supporting Students with Accommodations and Modifications *NEW TITLE!*

WORKING WITH OTHER EDUCATORS

- 112 Working with Official and Immediate Supervisors
- 113 Communicating with Student Teams
- 115 Developing Positive Communication Skills *NEW TITLE!*
- 180 Negotiation and Conflict Resolution Skills for Paraeducators

FAMILY AND CULTURE — *NEW!*

- 217 A Look at the Impact of Poverty *NEW!*
- 218 Signs of Abuse or Neglect: What Paraeducators Need to Know *NEW!*
- 226 Understanding Common Concerns of Families of Individuals with Disabilities *NEW!*

HEALTH AND FIRST AID

- 153 Bloodborne Pathogens
- 154 Introduction to Emergency Action Principles
- 155 Providing Care in an Emergency

TECHNOLOGY

- 151 Assistive Technology
- 156 Using Computers and Other Technology to Increase Learning
- 164 Assistive Technology: An Introduction to Devices and Software
- 171 Positioning a Student for Microswitch Use
- 172 Adapting Microswitches and Battery-Operated Devices
- 173 Constructing a Simple Microswitch
- 174 Microswitches and Environmental Controls
- 175 Microswitch Use in the Classroom
- 176 Setting Up a Classroom for Assistive Technology Use
- 220 Frequency Modulated (FM) Systems *NEW!*

DISABILITIES AND EXCEPTIONALITIES

GENERAL CONCEPTS

- 105 An Introduction to IDEA's 13 Areas of Disability (Part I)
- 106 An Introduction to IDEA's 13 Areas of Disability (Part II)
- 140 Understanding Students with Severe and/or Multiple Disabilities
- 157 Characteristics of Adolescents with Disabilities
- 204 Understanding Mental Health Disorders

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CLASSROOM

- 122 Providing Personal and Physical Support for Students with Physical Disabilities
- 152 Feeding Students with Severe and Multiple Disabilities
- 165 Working with Students with Low Vision
- 166 Working with Students Who Are Blind
- 167 Working with Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- 168 Supporting Students with Severe Emotional Disturbance
- 181 Supporting Students with Specific Learning Disabilities
- 193 Supporting Students with Speech or Language Impairments
- 208 Supporting Students with Traumatic Brain Injuries
- 212 Further Strategies for Supporting Students with Speech or Language Impairments
- 216 Supporting Adolescents Who Have Learning Disabilities in Writing
- 225 Implementing Visual Supports for Students with Developmental Disabilities *NEW!*

AUTISM AND ASPERGER'S SYNDROME

- 141 Autism: Diagnosis and Characteristics
- 142 Autism: Social Interactions and Skill Development
- 143 Autism: Communication
- 144 Autism: Challenging Behaviors
- 145 Asperger's Syndrome: Understanding the Diagnosis, Prevalence, and Characteristics
- 146 Asperger's Syndrome: Best Practices for Supporting Students
- 209 Autism: Prompting Strategies

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- 147 Gifted Students: Characteristics
- 148 Gifted Students: Assessment and Instructional Practices
- 210 Motivating Gifted Learners

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- 177 Understanding Early Childhood Disabilities
- 178 Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Early Childhood

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

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125	ELL: General Understanding
126	ELL: Avoiding Common Pitfalls
127	ELL: Fostering a Positive and Productive Classroom Environment
128	ELL: Strategies and Techniques for Student Success
129	ELL: Assessing Students

COURSE TITLES AND OBJECTIVES

PLN 101 – Understanding Inclusion

The participant will...

- See how inclusion has changed special education by serving more students in general education classrooms.
- Understand how inclusive education developed.
- Understand the philosophy and intent of inclusive education.
- Realize the impact of inclusive education on paraeducators.

PLN 102 – The First Day on the Job

The participant will...

- Understand how and where to locate school policies and procedures.
- Learn who has access to students' confidential information.
- Identify the duties of a paraeducator in different environments.
- Understand the importance of supporting what is happening in the classroom.

PLN 103 – Confidentiality

The participant will...

- Be able to define *confidentiality*.
- State the legal basis for confidentiality.
- Differentiate between people who can access student information and those who cannot.
- Describe strategies for practicing and maintaining appropriate confidentiality.
- Describe special situations involving confidentiality issues.

PLN 104 – Understanding the Many Types of Special Programs

The participant will...

- Understand what types of support programs school districts offer.
- Learn the parts of Title I services.
- Recognize the elements of at-risk programs.
- Become familiar with the pieces of special education services.
- Understand the guidelines of the law for educational placement.
- Learn the different placement options and instructional settings available under special education.

PLN 105 – An Introduction to IDEA's 13 Areas of Disability (Part I)

The participant will...

- Identify the disabilities included under the IDEA legislation.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with learning disabilities.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with emotional disturbance.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with mental retardation.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with orthopedic impairment.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with other health impairments.

PLN 106 – An Introduction to IDEA's 13 Areas of Disability (Part II)

The participant will...

- Identify the disabilities included under the IDEA legislation.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with speech and language impairment.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with visual impairment.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with traumatic brain injury.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with autism.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with developmental delay.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for students with ADD or AD/HD.
- Learn characteristics and intervention suggestions for gifted students.

PLN 107 – Individual Student and Program Information

The participant will...

- Learn what types of student personal information are most helpful to paraeducators.
- List characteristics and strategies for visual, auditory, and tactile learners.
- Be able to identify sources for specific student instructional information.
- Know the components of an individualized education program (IEP).
- Demonstrate an awareness of appropriate questions to use when gathering specific information on a student.

PLN 108 – Introduction to Accommodations and Modifications

The participant will...

- Learn the difference between accommodations and modifications.
- Understand the range of accommodations and modifications for students with exceptionalities.
- Understand when and how to provide appropriate modifications for students.
- Learn strategies for designing and implementing modifications.

PLN 109 – Supporting Students with Accommodations and Modifications

The participant will...

- Learn a variety of methods for making appropriate accommodations and modifications.
- Understand which students a paraeducator can support with accommodations and modifications.
- Understand when accommodations and modifications are needed to support a student.

PLN 110 – Classroom and Behavior Management

The participant will...

- Address the concerns he or she has about dealing with discipline problems.
- Understand who is responsible for classroom management and student discipline.
- Learn how to be effective when handling discipline issues.
- Review the importance of established classroom rules.
- Learn why inappropriate behaviors occur.
- Define how to set limits effectively.
- Discover proactive approaches to managing student behavior.

PLN 111 – Paraeducator Roles and Responsibilities in Inclusive Classrooms

The participant will...

- Recognize that part of the paraeducator's job is to learn how to work well with both students and adults.
- Understand how to support targeted students in the inclusive classroom.
- Identify ways to support the general education teacher in the inclusive classroom.
- Learn effective communication skills for working as a team member.
- Review the variety of duties that may be required from a paraeducator.
- Organize information effectively to carry out assigned duties.
- Identify the "don'ts" of working with a general education teacher.

PLN 112 – Working with Official and Immediate Supervisors

The participant will...

- Identify two kinds of supervisors.
- Learn the difference between an official and immediate supervisor.
- Discuss the various responsibilities of an official supervisor.
- Discuss the various responsibilities of an immediate supervisor.

PLN 113 – Communicating with Student Teams

The participant will...

- Realize the importance of being an effective communicator with all members of a student's educational team.
- Discover strategies for communicating effectively with the general education teacher.
- Become familiar with strategies for gaining important information regarding students and programs.
- Develop strategies for promoting effective communication between the general education and special education teachers.
- Learn techniques to use when confronted with an unwelcoming teacher.
- Understand the role of the paraeducator in communicating with parents.
- Identify ways to communicate the role of the paraeducator to students.

PLN 114 – Monitoring Student Progress

The participant will...

- Recognize the importance of monitoring the progress of students with special needs.
- Understand the various components of an individualized education program or plan (IEP).
- Understand the role of the paraeducator in monitoring student progress.
- Learn strategies and methods for monitoring student progress.

PLN 115 – Developing Positive Communication Skills

The participant will...

- Discover the importance of developing a good working relationship and good communication with other adults in the classroom.
- Understand the ground rules for communication.
- Identify when to ask questions.
- Learn how to develop assertive communication skills.
- Develop nonverbal communication skills.
- Determine how to best communicate with the classroom teacher.

PLN 116 – Classroom Instructional Arrangements

The participant will...

- Identify the role of the paraeducator during classroom instruction.
- Learn the various options for paraeducators related to instructional arrangements for supporting students.
- Develop strategies for utilizing instructional arrangement options within the classroom.
- Determine the skills a paraeducator may offer to the variety of instructional arrangements available for supporting students.

PLN 117 – Taking Instructional or Behavioral Data

The participant will...

- Understand the purpose of data collection.
- Discover various methods for collecting instructional data.
- Examine various methods for collecting behavioral data.
- Learn how to be an effective data collector.

PLN 118 – Supporting Reading Instruction

The participant will...

- Review the meaning and activity of reading.
- Learn questions to ask regarding the school district's reading program.
- Gain knowledge of the pieces that make up a balanced literacy program.
- Understand the cues that readers can use to gain meaning from text.
- Learn prompts for encouraging students to use reading strategies to gain meaning from text.
- Recognize the stages of reading development.
- Learn tips for making appropriate accommodations and modifications to reading instruction and activities.

PLN 119 – Supporting Writing Instruction

The participant will...

- Learn basic points about the writing process.
- Understand the different ways of helping students with writing.
- Learn simple rules for supporting writing instruction with students.
- Gain tips for making appropriate accommodations and modifications to writing instruction and activities.

PLN 120 – Supporting Mathematics Instruction

The participant will...

- Gain a basic overview of the fundamentals of mathematics instruction.
- Learn strategies for working with students in mathematics and, in particular, problem solving.
- Understand the role that educators play in building positive student attitudes toward mathematics.
- Learn some tips for making appropriate accommodations and modifications to mathematics instruction and activities.
- Learn techniques for providing feedback to students on right versus wrong answers.

PLN 121 – Supporting Organizational Skill Development

The participant will...

- Gain a basic understanding of the role that instruction in organizational skill strategies plays in assisting students to focus on the learning process and accomplish an academic task independently.
- Be able to teach organizational strategies.
- Learn suggestions for providing feedback to students.
- Know strategies to use when working with students on teacher-pleasing behavior, understanding and completing assignments, reading textbooks, taking tests, writing paragraphs, and understanding concepts.
- Understand how to assist students in becoming proficient strategic learners.

PLN 122 – Providing Personal and Physical Support for Students with Physical Disabilities

The participant will...

- Understand the necessity for and importance of positioning and mobility equipment.
- Be able to identify common types of positioning equipment and mobility equipment used by students with severe physical disabilities at school.
- Be able to identify common transfer methods required throughout the school day for a physically disabled student.
- Be familiar with the important physical healthcare issues requiring a paraeducator's direct involvement when working with physically disabled students.
- Become aware of duties and responsibilities of paraeducators working with physical disabilities.
- Understand the need for students' modesty, self-esteem and privacy to be respected and maintained.

PLN 123 – Implementing and Monitoring Behavior Intervention Plans

The participant will...

- Understand the purpose of a Behavior Intervention Plan.
- Identify the components of a Behavior Intervention Plan.
- Learn the effective techniques for implementing a Behavior Intervention Plan.
- Discover the purpose and methods for monitoring a Behavior Intervention Plan.

PLN 124 – Providing Positive Behavioral Supports for Individual Students

The participant will...

- Understand the underlying philosophy of using positive behavioral supports.
- Identify positive and proactive supports that can be used within the classroom or school environment.
- Learn effective techniques to apply positive behavioral supports to teaching methods.
- Learn effective ways to apply positive behavioral supports to interpersonal actions.

PLN 125 – ELL: General Understanding

The participant will...

- Define the term “English language learner (ELL).”
- Examine the variety of cultures and language differences that ELL students bring to the classroom.
- Explain how ELL students’ native language proficiency can affect their acquisition of English as a second language.
- Understand legal requirements regarding an equal and fair education for ELL students.
- Learn the importance of collaborating with the classroom teacher in assisting ELL students.
- Explore the challenges paraeducators face when working with English language learners.

PLN 126 – ELL: Avoiding Common Pitfalls

The participant will...

- Explain how negative stereotypes can harm ELL students.
- Understand that not having the ability to speak English is not a disability.
- Examine how ELL students acquire a second language.
- Understand how to have reasonable expectations for ELL students.
- Learn reasonable expectations to have for ELL students’ parents and caregivers.

PLN 127 – ELL: Fostering a Positive and Productive Classroom Environment

The participant will...

- Describe elements of classroom environments that are conducive to learning for ELL students.
- Discover how using visual cues can enhance the learning for ELL students and all learners.
- Learn how bulletin boards can become active learning tools.
- Identify non-traditional classroom settings.
- Understand that the professionalism of the teacher or paraeducator is crucial to creating classroom positive learning environment.

PLN 128 – ELL: Strategies and Techniques for Students Success

The participant will...

- Understand that practicing and maintaining classroom procedures helps ELL students become more confident in the classroom.
- Discover that hands-on activities support ELL students by engaging multiple senses.
- Learn that for ELL students, modeling is an excellent way to ease anxiety and increase student understanding of a given concept.
- Realize that cooperative learning groups offer multiple ways to facilitate learning for ELL students.
- Identify five important elements of positive classroom environments that are conducive to learning for ELL students.

PLN 129 – ELL: Assessing Students

The participant will...

- Understand school districts’ responsibility in meeting federal mandates for providing services to ELL students.
- Learn the role of the home language survey.
- Identify steps taken to assess ELL students for placement in appropriate academic programs.
- Realize that academic and conversational English are different.
- Recognize varied aspects of informal assessment of student progress.
- Understand ways and means of explaining student information to parents.

PLN 130 – Reading Comprehension: Narrative Texts

The participant will...

- Read a narrative text.
- Review the elements of narrative texts.
- Interpret, synthesize, and evaluate a narrative text.

PLN 131 – Reading Comprehension: Informative Texts

The participant will...

- Review the elements of informative texts.
- Practice identifying informative text elements.
- Review five informative text structures.
- Interpret and evaluate informative text structures.

PLN 132 – Reading Comprehension: Decoding Language and Utilizing Layout

The participant will...

- Review three basic strategies for decoding unfamiliar words.
- Review the parts of words that aid in decoding unfamiliar words.
- Practice using the strategies to decode unfamiliar words.
- Review figurative language.
- Practice identifying types of figurative language.
- Review the informational layout of books.
- Practice identifying specific parts of a book.

PLN 133 – Writing Fundamentals: Parts of Speech and Effective Sentences

The participant will...

- Review the function of nouns and pronouns.
- Review the purpose and types of verbs.
- Review the function of adjectives and adverbs.
- Review the purpose of prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.
- Practice identifying the eight major parts of speech.
- Review the parts of a complete sentence—subject, predicate, phrase, and clause.
- Review the forms that sentences can take—simple, compound, complex, and compound complex.
- Review the purpose of different sentence types—declarative, interrogative, exclamatory, and imperative.
- Review the common mistakes made in writing sentences.
- Practice identifying the parts of a sentence.
- Practice identifying errors in writing.

PLN 134 – Writing Fundamentals: Mechanics of Writing

The participant will...

- Review the rules for capitalization.
- Practice identifying the proper capitalization in sentences.
- Review the major punctuation marks.
- Review the rules for using punctuation.
- Practice identifying the appropriate punctuation.
- Review the basic spelling rules for commonly misspelled words.
- Practice identifying spelling errors.

PLN 135 – Mathematics: Understanding the Basic Skills

The participant will...

- Review basic mathematical concepts.
- Review basic mathematical terminology such as *sum*, *difference*, *product*, *quotient*, *dividend*, and *divisor*.
- Review the basic mathematical operations of whole numbers.
- Review the proper order for mathematical operations.
- Recognize and interpret mathematical symbols.

PLN 136 – Mathematics: Fractions, Decimals, and Percentages

The participant will...

- Review fractions, improper fractions, and mixed numbers.
- Study the basic mathematical operations of fractions.
- Review the basic mathematical operations of decimals.
- Study the computation of percentages.

PLN 137 – Basic Algebra

The participant will...

- Review algebraic terminology.
- Evaluate simple algebraic expressions.
- Review the methods for solving for a single, unknown variable.
- Review the basic concepts of exponents.

PLN 138 – Basic Geometry

The participant will...

- Review basic geometric terminology.
- Identify basic geometric figures.
- Practice the formula for computing perimeter.
- Practice the formula for computing area.
- Practice the formula for computing volume for basic geometric shapes.
- Practice plotting ordered pairs on a coordinate grid.

PLN 139 – Basic Data Analysis

The participant will...

- Review the uses and terminology of statistics.
- Review the process of interpreting bar and circle graphs.

PLN 140 – Understanding Students with Severe and/or Multiple Disabilities

The participant will...

- Learn the definitions of severe and/or multiple disabilities.
- Gain information related to the causes, prevalence, medical, and social implications of severe and/or multiple disabilities.
- Become familiar with learning characteristics of students with severe and/or multiple disabilities.
- Learn language characteristics associated with severe and/or multiple disabilities.
- Identify behavioral characteristics of students with severe and/or multiple disabilities.
- Recognize physical characteristics associated with severe and/or multiple disabilities.

PLN 141 – Autism: Diagnosis and Characteristics

The participant will...

- Learn the definition of autism.
- Gain an overview of the causes and diagnosis of autism.
- Become familiar with characteristics and issues associated with autism.
- Discover the prevalence of autism and the prognosis for students with the disorder.

PLN 142 – Autism: Social Interactions and Skill Development

The participant will...

- Review the definition of autism.
- Understand the definition and characteristics of social interaction.
- Gain information on how learning issues impact social interactions.
- Learn about different instructional approaches for social skills training.
- Gain tips to make social skills instruction more effective.

PLN 143 – Autism: Communication

The participant will...

- Review the definition of autism.
- Understand the definition and function of communication.
- Examine the communication characteristics associated with autism.
- Gain information on how learning issues impact communication.
- Learn about the different modes of communication that children with autism may use.
- Develop ways to make communication with children with autism more effective.

PLN 144 – Autism: Challenging Behaviors

The participant will...

- Review the definition of autism.
- Become familiar with the behavioral characteristics associated with autism.
- Understand the needs and functions of behavior.
- Discover how positive behavioral supports can help prevent challenging behaviors.
- Learn techniques for replacing challenging behaviors with positive behaviors.
- Examine common tools of support and effective management techniques.

PLN 145 – Asperger’s Syndrome: Understanding the Diagnosis, Prevalence, and Characteristics

The participant will...

- Gain an understanding of the diagnosis and prevalence of Asperger’s syndrome.
- Understand the social interaction impairments of children with Asperger’s syndrome.
- Learn about typical characteristics and abnormalities of students with Asperger’s syndrome.

PLN 146 – Asperger’s Syndrome: Best Practices for Supporting Students

The participant will...

- Understand the characteristics of Asperger’s syndrome which have an effect on a student’s success in school.
- Identify eight areas of functioning in which children with Asperger’s syndrome may have deficits.
- Learn effective strategies for enhancing school success for students with Asperger’s syndrome.

PLN 147 – Gifted Students: Characteristics

The participant will...

- Identify the characteristics of students who are gifted.
- Learn myths and corresponding realities regarding the gifted student population.
- Explore services designed for educating students who are gifted.

PLN 148 – Gifted Students: Assessment and Instructional Practices

The participant will...

- Become familiar with appropriate assessments for identification of students who are gifted.
- Discover appropriate interventions for assessing and meeting the needs of gifted students in the general classroom setting.
- Explore best practices for delivering gifted services.
- Understand how differentiation is a key to meeting the needs of gifted students.

PLN 149 – Assisting Students in the Development of Social Skills

The participant will...

- Gain an understanding of the need for students to have good social skills.
- Recognize the basic manners that should be expected of students.
- Learn ways to help students understand the importance of good manners.
- Review appropriate ways for students to interact with people with physical disabilities.
- Identify important communication skills and ways to assist students in gaining those skills.

PLN 150 – Transition: Building Skills for a Successful Adulthood

The participant will...

- Be able to define transition services in terms of the three most important components of these services.
- Gain an understanding of the goals of transition services for students with disabilities.
- Learn ways of assisting students to become independent workers and to develop self-advocacy skills.
- Learn ways to help students build their self-esteem, self-identity, and dreams for adulthood.

PLN 151 – Assistive Technology

The participant will...

- Be able to define key assistive technology terms.
- Identify the three main purposes of assistive technology for students with disabilities.
- Understand how federal law impacted the use of assistive technology for students with disabilities.
- Describe the continuum of assistive technology.
- Explain the paraeducator's role in facilitating assistive technology.

PLN 152 – Feeding Students with Severe and Multiple Disabilities

The participant will...

- Identify four conditions that interfere with normal feeding and how to respond to each condition.
- Learn techniques to help a student overcome eating difficulties.
- Become familiar with considerations in preparing both the eating area and the student for mealtimes.
- Know how to position a student for maximum benefit in feeding.
- Discover ways to prepare food to help a student with eating difficulties.
- Effectively engage and feed a student who needs feeding assistance.
- Understand what to do after the meal is finished.

PLN 153 – Bloodborne Pathogens

The participant will...

- Identify bloodborne pathogens and other biohazards.
- Recognize possible consequences of contamination from bloodborne pathogens.
- Discover what techniques you can use to protect yourself from bloodborne pathogens and other biohazards.
- Learn about controls associated with bloodborne pathogens and other biohazards.
- Understand how to prevent contamination after accidental exposure.
- Practice theoretical responses to different scenarios involving bloodborne pathogens and other biohazards.

PLN 154 – Introduction to Emergency Action Principles

The participant will...

- Understand the importance of learning first aid and its role in providing a safe learning environment.
- Learn how to prevent and prepare for emergencies.
- Study how to prevent disease and parasite transmission.
- Gain an understanding of the content and importance of an emergency action plan.
- Learn the initial steps in emergency response.
- Study how to check the scene for safety.
- Gain an understanding of when to call and how to interact with the emergency medical services (EMS) system.

PLN 155 – Providing Care in an Emergency

The participant will...

- Learn how to respond and provide care in the event of an emergency or sudden illness.
- Review information contained in Course 154.
- Learn about common emergency situations.
- Gain an understanding of how to evaluate and treat wounds.
- Study how to control bleeding.

- Learn how to help burn victims.
- Study how to evaluate and treat musculoskeletal injuries.
- Gain an understanding of how to help victims of sudden illnesses.
- Learn how to handle heat- and cold-related illnesses.

PLN 156 – Using Computers and Other Technology to Increase Learning

The participant will...

- Learn about computer hardware components and their care in the school setting.
- Identify basic software programs and their uses in the classroom.
- Learn how the Internet can be used in the classroom.
- Understand the concepts of copyright and plagiarism in order to assist students in correctly using Internet information.

PLN 157 – Characteristics of Adolescents with Disabilities

The participant will...

- Learn the distinguishing features of adolescence.
- Identify five developmental characteristics of middle school and junior high school students.
- Learn about characteristics and behaviors specific to adolescents with disabilities.
- Identify ways to handle adolescent behaviors and characteristics in the best manner for students with disabilities.
- Learn how paraeducators can demonstrate and promote respect for individuals with disabilities.

PLN 158 – The Roles of Paraeducators in Promoting Active Learning

The participant will...

- Review the importance of active learning.
- Understand ways to incorporate active learning strategies into the foundational components of a lesson.
- Learn how to implement a lesson while incorporating active learning strategies.
- Discover a variety of strategies that will engage students in their daily classroom learning.

PLN 159 – Assisting Students with Work Completion

The participant will...

- Become familiar with four components of the learning process.
- Understand how to provide a structure for work completion.
- Learn various interventions for difficulties with work completion.

PLN 160 – Supporting Students with Attentional Concerns

The participant will...

- Become familiar with the range of attentional concerns as well as associated characteristics and behaviors.
- Learn various personal behaviors for interacting with students.
- Gain strategies for supporting and preventing attentional issues in the classroom.
- Discover strategies for supporting and preventing attentional issues in unstructured settings.

PLN 161 – Supporting Students Who Are Noncompliant

The participant will...

- Learn what noncompliant behavior is.
- Recognize reasons for noncompliance.
- Learn techniques to prevent or minimize noncompliance.
- Identify strategies to use with a student who demonstrates noncompliance with verbal requests and directions.
- Become familiar with strategies to use with a student who is noncompliant with school and classroom rules.

PLN 162 – Supporting Reading Instruction in Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics (Part I)

The participant will...

- Understand the importance of continuing support for reading instruction in the content areas of social studies, science, and mathematics as students progress through school.

- Discuss the “roadblocks” that affect teachers and students with regard to reading in the areas of social studies, science, and mathematics.
- Gain knowledge of various instructional strategies with which to support reading instruction for students in the areas of social studies, science, and mathematics **before** instruction in the content area occurs.

*NOTE: PLN 163 will continue with this topic by discussing strategies that support reading instruction for students **during and after** instruction in the content areas of social studies, science, and mathematics.*

PLN 163 – Supporting Reading Instruction in Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics (Part II)

The participant will...

- Recognize when reading instruction support is needed and the role of the paraeducator in delivering such support.
- Gain knowledge of various instructional strategies with which to support reading instruction for students in the content areas of social studies, science, and mathematics **during** instruction in the content area.
- Gain knowledge of various instructional strategies with which to support reading instruction for students in the area of social studies, science, and mathematics **after** instruction in the content area occurs.

*NOTE: PLN 162 provides strategies that support reading instruction for students **before** instruction in the content areas of social studies, science, and mathematics.*

PLN 164 – Assistive Technology: An Introduction to Devices and Software

The participant will...

- Identify the three basic categories of assistive technology.
- Become familiar with computer-related assistive technologies.
- Become familiar with augmentative and alternative communication devices.
- Define and identify examples of environmental controls used as assistive devices.
- Explore the paraeducator’s role as it relates to assistive technology.

NOTE: We suggest that you complete PLN 151 prior to taking this course. PLN 151 provides a description of the basic concepts of assistive technology, and this course provides more in-depth information about the actual devices used with students with special needs.

PLN 165 – Working with Students with Low Vision

The participant will...

- Learn about common causes of visual impairment in children in the United States.
- Learn terminology and abbreviations associated with visual impairments.
- Identify optical and nonoptical devices that aid a student with low vision in the classroom.
- Identify typical supporting roles for those who assist a student with low vision in the classroom.

PLN 166 – Working with Students Who Are Blind

The participant will...

- Distinguish facts from myths about blindness.
- Learn terminology associated with blindness.
- Learn ways in which core curriculum is expanded for students with blindness.
- Gain a basic understanding of orientation and mobility.
- Identify the paraeducator’s role in supporting a student with blindness.

PLN 167 – Working with Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

The participant will...

- Gain a basic understanding of the deaf culture.
- Be able to define the terms *deaf* and *hard of hearing*.
- Become familiar with different sign languages and systems.
- Learn effective communication strategies for working with a student who is deaf or hard of hearing.
- Identify difficulties that a student who is deaf or hard of hearing may encounter.
- Understand the role of the paraeducator in educating students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

PLN 168 – Supporting Students with Severe Emotional Disturbance

The participant will...

- Learn the definition of emotional disturbance.
- Identify characteristics and behaviors associated with emotional disturbance.
- Understand ways to support students identified with severe emotional disturbance in the educational setting.
- Learn personal skills to demonstrate and discipline traps to avoid when supporting students who have an emotional disturbance.

PLN 169 – Strategies to Defuse a Defiant Student

The participant will...

- Become familiar with the challenges of working with defiant students.
- Identify the five stages of defiant behavior and the appropriate intervention at each stage.
- Review how to communicate appropriately through body language and voice tone.
- Learn how to counteract unreasonable expectations.
- Understand how to set limits effectively.

PLN 170 – Assisting Struggling Readers with Their Textbook Assignments

The participant will...

- Discuss difficulties that struggling readers might have when navigating a textbook.
- Identify the characteristics of expository text.
- Review three features of textbooks that can influence a student's understanding of textbook material.
- Understand the broad benefits of intervention strategies for struggling readers.
- Discover strategies for supporting reading fluency.
- Learn strategies for supporting concentration and organization.
- Review strategies for supporting reading comprehension.
- Identify strategies for assisting students to be self-motivated and competent readers.

PLN 171 – Positioning a Student for Microswitch Use

The participant will...

- Become familiar with the function and terminology of microswitches.
- Examine the characteristics of touch-activated microswitches.
- Identify factors which must be taken into account when positioning a student for successful activation and use of a microswitch.
- Learn the paraeducator's role as it relates to positioning a student for successful microswitch use.

PLN 172 – Adapting Microswitches and Battery-Operated Devices

The participant will...

- Understand the rationale for using microswitches and battery-operated devices with students who have disabilities.
- Identify the tools needed to adapt microswitches and battery-operated devices.
- Discover ways to adapt a microswitch to meet the needs of a specific student.
- Become familiar with the use of a battery interrupter as a temporary adaptation.
- Learn about battery-operated devices that are easy to adapt for use with a microswitch.
- Understand the paraeducator's role in adapting microswitches for students.

PLN 173 – Constructing a Simple Microswitch

The participant will...

- Understand the importance of constructing a microswitch for a specific student.
- Identify the tools needed to construct a simple microswitch.
- Recognize the attributes of a variety of simple microswitches.
- Identify materials to use for constructing specific simple microswitches.
- Follow the steps to construct a simple microswitch that matches the needs of a specific student with a disability as prescribed by the IEP team.
- Learn the role of a paraeducator in the construction of microswitches with students.

PLN 174 – Microswitches and Environmental Controls

The participant will...

- Define the terms microswitch and environmental controls.
- Become familiar with what features to consider when choosing assistive technology for students with different needs.
- List assistive technology attributes to consider when building a classroom collection.
- Identify commonly used microswitches and environmental controls.
- Explore the hierarchy of microswitches and environmental controls.
- Understand the paraeducator's role in implementing and evaluating the use of assistive technologies.

PLN 175 – Microswitch Use in the Classroom

The participant will...

- Examine the purpose of using microswitches in the classroom for students with disabilities.
- Identify skills that microswitches promote and enhance.
- Become familiar with the characteristics that should be considered when selecting microswitches.
- Identify appropriate times and activities that a microswitch would be used with a student having a disability.
- Learn the paraeducator's role as it relates to helping students with disabilities access their educational experiences through the use of microswitch activation and attached devices.

PLN 176 – Setting Up a Classroom for Assistive Technology Use

The participant will...

- Identify the five aspects to consider when setting up a classroom environment for a student with a disability using assistive technology.
- Review best practices for ensuring successful integration of assistive technology into the student's educational environment.
- Review best practices for developing meaningful and functional activities using assistive technology in the student's learning environment.
- Explain the concepts of a classroom setup when implementing assistive technology support.
- Describe an Assistive Technology Integration Plan.
- Identify the paraeducator's role in implementing assistive technology use in the classroom.

PLN 177 – Understanding Early Childhood Disabilities

The participant will...

- Obtain an overview of the historical and current status of early intervention and early childhood disability services.
- Discover the importance and goals of early intervention services.
- Gain information related to the steps that lead to providing early childhood disability services.
- Learn about the types of early childhood disability services available to young children.
- Review best practices in preschool early intervention.

PLN 178 – Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Early Childhood

The participant will...

- Define and outline basic guidelines of developmentally appropriate practice in early childhood education.
- Discuss the role of play in developmentally appropriate practice (DAP).
- Identify the components of a DAP classroom, including types of learning experiences and physical setup.
- Understand the role of the teaching staff in the DAP classroom.
- Understand the impact of DAP on early childhood disability services.

PLN 179 – Community-Based Instruction

The participant will...

- Understand the principles of community-based instruction.
- Learn why community-based instruction is an important part of the curriculum.
- Identify some challenges to community-based instruction.
- Discuss which students will be best served by community-based instruction.
- Learn the difference between field trips and community-based instruction.

- Identify when to include community-based instruction in a student's curriculum.
- Give some examples and activities for community-based instruction.

PLN 180 – Negotiation & Conflict Resolution Skills for Paraeducators

The participant will...

- Learn that conflict can have both positive and negative results.
- Discover how conflict affects special education.
- Define conflict.
- Understand common responses to conflict.
- Become familiar with a problem-solving and conflict resolution process.
- Identify six steps to collaborative problem solving.

PLN 181 – Students with Specific Learning Disabilities

The participant will...

- Define learning disability.
- Understand why paraeducators need to know about the characteristics of students with learning disabilities.
- Identify the three academic areas primarily affected by learning disabilities.
- Understand the various speech and language issues associated with learning disabilities.
- Comprehend what a nonverbal learning disability is.
- Become familiar with accommodations and strategies to help students with learning disabilities.
- Discover ways to help and encourage students with learning disabilities.

PLN 182 – Managing a Student in Crisis

The participant will...

- Understand the definition of a student in crisis.
- Identify the four stages of the Crisis Development Model.
- Begin developing personal strategies for dealing with a student in crisis.
- Learn basic guidelines concerning physical intervention.
- Become familiar with how to respond after the crisis is over.

PLN 183 – Introduction to Earth Science: Geology and Astronomy

The participant will...

- Identify types of rocks and the cycles which form them.
- Learn terminology and concepts associated with the layers of the earth, continental drift, and plate tectonics.
- Develop an understanding of Earth in the solar system.
- Understand the causes and types of eclipses and tides.

PLN 184 – Introduction to Earth Science: Meteorology and Oceanography

The participant will...

- Learn basic terminology related to the study of fossils.
- Become familiar with two ways the age of rocks is determined.
- Identify components of the geological time scale.

PLN 185 – Basic Data Analysis II

The participant will...

- Review terms used in collecting data.
- Review the concepts of quartiles, interquartile range, and outliers.
- Examine the relationship between frequency tables, histograms, stem-and-leaf plots and line graphs.
- Understand the purpose of double bar graphs, scatter plots and box-and-whisker graphs.
- Learn to identify misleading graphs.

PLN 186 – Teaching the Scientific Method

The participant will...

- Define the scientific method.
- Distinguish questions that are testable from those that are not.

- Understand the need for research prior to setting up an experiment.
- Learn how to formulate hypotheses.
- Identify and define the components of a scientific experiment.
- Understand how to analyze data and communicate the results.

PLN 187 – Basic Algebra II: Patterns and Equations

The participant will...

- Recognize various patterns.
- Extend patterns.
- Use a function table to find values and determine a rule.
- Review concepts and terminology associated with algebraic equations.
- Simplify like terms.
- Solve simple algebraic equations with like terms.

PLN 188 – Basic Algebra II: Graphing, Proportions, and Ratios

The participant will...

- Learn terms and concepts related to graphing coordinate pairs.
- Graph a simple linear equation.
- Express and simplify ratios.
- Review the basic concepts of proportions.

PLN 189 – Basic Geometry II: Angles and Triangles

The participant will...

- Measure and classify angles.
- Identify types of angles.
- Classify and identify basic components of triangles.
- Compute the area of triangles.
- Differentiate among types of right triangles.

PLN 190 – Basic Geometry II: Circles and Transformations

The participant will...

- Identify basic components of circles.
- Review the formula for computing the circumference of a circle.
- Review the formula for computing the area of a circle.
- Identify translations, reflections, and rotations.

PLN 191 – Introduction to Life Science

The participant will...

- Learn characteristics of living things.
- Understand general cell theory and concepts.
- Identify key elements of cell structure.
- Develop an understanding of cells' life processes.
- Distinguish levels of organization, organ systems, and life processes for multicellular organisms.

PLN 192 – Probability

The participant will...

- Learn basic concepts in probability.
- Learn basic concepts of event probability and sample space.
- Determine probability of simple and compound events.
- Learn how to find the probability of mutually exclusive events.
- Be introduced to the concepts of permutations and combinations.

PLN 193 – Supporting Students with Speech or Language Impairments

The participant will...

- Define speech or language impairment as it relates to four strands of communication.
- Learn about stuttering and strategies for working with students who stutter.

- Explore the concept of articulation and strategies for addressing articulation problems.
- Become familiar with three aspects of language impairment including content form and function.
- Examine the signs, causes, and strategies for dealing with voice impairments.

PLN 194 – Geologic History

The participant will...

- Learn basic terminology related to the study of fossils.
- Become familiar with two ways the age of rocks is determined.
- Identify components of the geological time scale.

PLN 195 – Human Body Systems

The participant will...

- Be introduced to the concepts of cells, tissues, organs, and organ systems—and functions they perform in the human body.
- Learn about the integumentary, muscle, and skeletal systems.
- Identify the components and processes of the digestive system.
- Examine the role of the endocrine and immune systems.
- Learn the three components of the excretory system.
- Identify the two types of nerves comprising the nervous system.
- Examine the respiratory and circulatory systems.
- Learn the role of the lymphatic system.
- Identify components of the male and female reproductive systems.

PLN 196 – Mathematics: Properties and Integers

The participant will...

- Define the commutative, associative, and distributive properties of numbers.
- Identify the identity elements and the property of zero.
- Learn the concept of integers, both positive and negative.
- Review how to add both positive and negative integers.
- Practice subtracting positive and negative integers.
- Know how to multiply positive and negative integers.
- Understand how to divide positive and negative integers.

PLN 197 – Student Behavior: Noncompliance and Being Out of Seat

The participant will...

- Understand the importance of objective behavior definitions in observing and managing behaviors in the classroom.
- Examine the three functions of behavior and how they are exhibited.
- Learn basic positive behavioral supports that address the occurrence of noncompliance and out-of-seat behaviors in the classroom.
- Know strategies that address the seeking of positive reinforcement.
- Understand strategies that address the seeking of negative reinforcement.
- Examine strategies that address the seeking of sensory regulation.
- Identify intervention strategies to use for targeted behaviors.

PLN 198 – Student Behavior: Inappropriate Language and Inappropriate Touching

The participant will...

- Understand the importance of objective behavior definitions in observing and managing behaviors in the classroom.
- Examine the three functions of behavior and how they are exhibited.
- Learn positive behavioral supports that address the occurrence of inappropriate language and inappropriate touching.
- Identify strategies that address the seeking of positive reinforcement.
- Understand strategies that address the seeking of negative reinforcement.
- Know strategies that address the seeking of sensory regulation.
- Identify intervention strategies to use for targeted behaviors.

PLN 199 – Customary Systems of Measurement

The participant will...

- Review customary systems of measurement.
- Understand relationships among units and how to convert one unit to another unit within the same system.
- Practice writing customary measures as fractions.
- Practice writing fractions as mixed measures.
- Become familiar with the computation of mixed measures.
- Learn to convert temperatures in degrees Fahrenheit to degrees Celsius.

PLN 200 – Metric Systems of Measurement

The participant will...

- Review the language of the metric system of measurement.
- Compare and contrast metric units of length, capacity, and mass.
- Convert from one measure to another measure within the same system.
- Understand computation with the metric system of measurement.
- Convert from metric measures to customary measures.
- Learn to convert temperatures in degrees Celsius to degrees Fahrenheit.

PLN 201 – Brain-Based Learning (Part I)

The participant will...

- Learn basic facts about the brain.
- Understand what gives the brain energy so that learning can occur.
- Identify the three main priorities of the brain that play a part in learning.
- Become aware of how to connect learning to the real world.
- Explore the kinds of learning activities that are most effective with brain-based research.

PLN 202 – Brain-Based Learning (Part II)

The participant will...

- Examine facts about how we learn as they apply to planning for instruction.
- Discover how brain-based learning impacts education.
- Become familiar with twelve brain-based research facts.

PLN 203 – Characteristics of Young Adolescents

The participant will...

- Learn about early signs of emerging adolescents.
- Examine the physical changes and characteristics of young adolescents.
- Identify some intellectual changes and characteristics of young adolescents.
- Learn key emotional changes and characteristics of young adolescents.
- Examine social changes and characteristics of young adolescents.
- Identify positive responses to typical early adolescent behavior.

PLN 204 – Understanding Mental Health Disorders

The participant will...

- Examine the diagnostic criteria for and symptoms of bipolar disorder.
- Become familiar with diagnostic criteria for and symptoms of obsessive-compulsive disorder.
- Learn how conduct disorder is diagnosed.
- Identify the characteristics of and diagnostic criteria for oppositional defiant disorder.
- Receive an overview of reactive attachment disorder.
- Understand the significance of mental health disorders in determining special education services.

PLN 205 – Encouraging Student Response and Engagement

The participant will...

- Understand the importance of student response and engagement.
- Learn strategies for encouraging student participation.

- Examine the difference between covert and overt behaviors.
- Identify ways to engage students in both covert and overt behaviors.
- Discuss strategies to promote active engagement in learning.

PLN 206 – Student Behavior: Property Destruction and Self Injury

The participant will...

- Understand the importance of objective behavior definitions in observing and managing behaviors in the classroom.
- Examine the three functions of behavior and how they are exhibited.
- Learn basic positive behavioral supports that address the occurrence of property destruction and self injury in the classroom.
- Know strategies that address the seeking of positive reinforcement.
- Learn strategies that address the seeking of negative reinforcement.
- Discover strategies that address the seeking of sensory regulation.
- Identify intervention strategies to use for targeted behaviors.

PLN 207 – Life Science: Reproduction and Heredity

The participant will...

- Develop an understanding of reproduction.
- Examine the process of mitosis.
- Become familiar with the process of meiosis.
- Review chromosomes, DNA, and genes.
- Discuss the concept of heredity and how traits are passed from parent to offspring.
- Use a Punnett Square to calculate the probability of inheriting certain traits.
- Be introduced to Gregor Mendel – The Father of Genetics.

PLN 208 – Supporting Students with Traumatic Brain Injuries

The participant will...

- Learn the definition of traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- Learn how a TBI differs from a learning disability.
- Examine the supports that are effective in transitioning a student with a TBI back to school.
- Understand the variety of supports often needed for a student with a TBI.
- Gain an awareness of behavioral issues and positive supports for a student with a TBI.

PLN 209 – Autism: Prompting Strategies

The participant will...

- Be introduced to the concept of prompting for students with autism.
- Examine the rationale for using prompting strategies in instruction and learning.
- Discover the varying levels of prompting.
- Understand how the prompt hierarchy can be used to promote student independence.
- Discuss the advantages associated with prompting.
- Review the disadvantages associated with prompting.
- Learn tips and strategies for applying prompting procedures appropriately.
- Look at some examples of prompting to promote student success.

PLN 210 – Motivating Gifted Learners

The participant will...

- Learn the importance of motivation to the achievement of gifted learners.
- Debunk myths associated with gifted learners.
- Identify simple strategies that will help motivate gifted learners.
- Gain even more strategies for motivating gifted learners.

PLN 211 – Confidentiality II: FERPA and HIPAA

The participant will...

- Become knowledgeable about basic confidentiality requirements for working with students with disabilities.
- Learn the basic requirements of FERPA for serving students with disabilities in the school setting.

- Understand the intent of HIPAA and its effect on schools.
- Highlight the paraeducator's role in maintaining confidentiality.

PLN 212 – Further Strategies for Supporting Students with Speech or Language Impairments

The participant will...

- Understand the definitions of different language impairments.
- Identify ways to treat a student's communication disorder.
- Learn the sequence of successful learning for a student with language delays.
- Discover ways to improve listening skills to increase language skills in the classroom.

PLN 213 – Helping vs. Hovering: How to Avoid the “Helicopter” Effect

The participant will...

- Learn basic information about adult support in the school environment.
- Define the basics of self-sufficiency.
- Identify ways to promote student self-sufficiency in the school environment.

PLN 214 – Using Discrete Trial Teaching in the Classroom

The participant will...

- Identify and understand the components of a discrete trial.
- Review an example in which discrete trial teaching is used to teach a student the skill of imitation.
- Explore the advantages and disadvantages of using discrete trial teaching within the classroom setting.

PLN 215 – Mathematics: Factors and Multiples

The participant will...

- Describe classes of numbers according to their characteristics, such as the nature of their factors.
- Review the concepts of factors and factorials.
- Define the concepts of prime numbers and composites.
- Examine the concepts of prime factorization and relatively prime numbers.
- Discuss rules of divisibility.
- Identify the concepts of multiples, greatest common factors, and least common multiples.

PLN 216 – Supporting Adolescents Who Have Learning Disabilities in Writing

The participant will...

- Understand how learning disabilities affect writing skills.
- Learn about the emotional impact that adolescent learners with learning disabilities in writing may experience.
- Identify positive, daily interventions for adolescents with learning disabilities in writing.

PLN 217 – A Look at the Impact of Poverty

The participant will...

- Identify a working definition of poverty.
- Learn about the survival skills and hidden rules you need to know at different standards of living.
- Debunk the myths associated with the poor.
- Gain basic information related to factors that impact students living in poverty.
- Define how poverty can affect student achievement.
- Address the importance of building relationships with students who live in poverty.

PLN 218 – Signs of Abuse or Neglect: What Paraeducators Need to Know

The participant will...

- Identify consequences of abuse or neglect for the victims.
- Define the problems of abuse and neglect.
- Discover how often abuse and neglect occur.
- Learn the different types of child abuse and neglect.
- Understand the signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect.
- Discuss the reporting guidelines and the process for reporting abuse or neglect.

PLN 219 – Teaching Students About the Hidden Curriculum

The participant will...

- Demonstrate an understanding of what the hidden curriculum is.
- Learn why the hidden curriculum must be taught to students with challenges in social skills, such as autism spectrum disorders.
- Identify the components of the hidden curriculum.
- Gain an awareness of social situations and settings in which students may have difficulties with the hidden curriculum.
- Discover information related to strategies and resources that are available to assist with teaching the hidden curriculum.

PLN 220 – Frequency Modulated (FM) Systems

The participant will...

- Identify acoustic barriers that affect students with hearing loss in the classroom.
- Discover the importance of classroom acoustics.
- Describe the effects of classroom acoustics on students with hearing loss.
- Understand the purpose of FM systems and the benefits of having a personal FM system.
- Learn appropriate use and general troubleshooting techniques for personal FM systems.

PLN 221 – Helping Middle School Students Improve Organization Skills

The participant will...

- Understand the rationale for structure in learning.
- Learn basic information for helping students organize materials.
- Discover simple ways to help students organize tasks.
- Identify techniques for keeping students' environments organized.

PLN 222 – The Importance of Assessments in Special Education

The participant will...

- Learn terminology associated with assessments.
- Identify the importance of collecting baseline data.
- Pinpoint ways to use assessment data to determine present levels of performance.
- Assess the types of data that are used to show and monitor progress.
- Discover how different types of assessment can influence student learning.
- Explain why assessments are important sources of information for those who teach and support students with special needs.

PLN 223 – Bullying Awareness, Prevention, and Intervention

The participant will...

- Gain a practical understanding of the issue of bullying.
- Identify the different players in a bullying situation.
- Develop strategies for preventing bullying from occurring in the school setting.
- Learn how to intervene and address bullying when it does occur.

PLN 224 – Stars

The participant will...

- Survey the life cycle of stars.
- Develop an understanding of electromagnetic radiation.
- Investigate how astronomers use spectroscopy to study stars.
- Identify how astronomers classify stars.
- Explore characteristics of constellations.

PLN 225 – Implementing Visual Supports for Students with Developmental Disabilities

The participant will...

- Learn the need for visual supports.
- Be able to define visual supports.
- Understand the benefits of using visual supports in the classroom.
- Identify types of visual supports for scheduling.
- Discover a variety of visual supports for basic communication needs.
- Become familiar with types of visual supports for student organization.
- Identify visual supports to assist with student behaviors.

PLN 226 – Understanding Common Concerns of Families of Individuals with Disabilities

The participant will...

- Develop an understanding of the common concerns faced by families of individuals with disabilities.
- Become aware that parents want educators to have high expectations for their children with disabilities.
- Learn what actions school staff can take to address safety concerns of parents.
- Understand an educator's role in helping positively shape the attitudes of others toward individuals with disabilities.
- Identify ways to ease transitions for students with disabilities and their families.