

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Module Descriptions

This course provides a basic introduction to special education and the needs of students with disabilities. The content consists of introductory material regarding legal and historical foundations of special education, human growth and development, the nature of disabilities, and an introduction to the basic human needs that paraeducators must address.

Module A. History, Legal Precedents, and Values (5 hours)

The paraeducator will:

- 1) Know major laws and court rulings that have helped shape special education services.
- 2) Know the legal rights of students with disabilities and the qualification processes for special education services and 504 plans.
- 3) Know the steps and processes of special education services in Colorado.
- 4) Articulate the values and rationale for inclusion of students with disabilities into general education.

Module B. Overview of Human Growth, Development, and Learning (3 hours)

The paraeducator will:

- 1) Identify major cognitive, affective, physical, and communicative milestones of typically developing children and youth.
- 2) Know basic styles of human learning.
- 3) Know the risk factors that may prohibit or impede typical development.

Module C. Overview of Exceptionalities (5 hours)

The paraeducator will:

- 1) Know how beliefs about people with disabilities are related to life experiences.
- 2) Use people-first language by talking and writing about people with disabilities in ways that honor their dignity and respect their value.
- 3) Know categories of exceptionality according to state and national laws.
- 4) Recognize the cognitive, communicative, physical, and affective needs that students may have as a result of a disability.
- 5) Know how to access information about specific disabilities, syndromes, and medical conditions on the internet, through libraries, and other sources.

Module D. Health, Safety, Physical, and Belonging Needs of Students with Disabilities (2 hours)

The paraeducator will:

- 1) Know written health, safety, and emergency procedures and practices.
- 2) Know responsibilities and practice for maintaining the physical health and safety of students.
- 3) Know obligations to report child abuse, suicidal ideation and/or dangerous behavior.
- 4) Know techniques that promote interactions and facilitate friendships among students with and without disabilities.