



A Union of Professionals

COVID-19 Resources

Paraprofessionals Making the Difference During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Paraprofessionals and school-related personnel are at the forefront of many districts' COVID-19 response. Students who live in precarious situations are staying safe and nourished because of the work our support staff members are doing. Even with prolonged school closures, PSRP members are still serving their communities and students in valuable and meaningful ways. More than simply transitioning from the school to the home setting, paraprofessionals also are providing social and emotional support in the digital space.

The roles of paraprofessionals may have changed during this crisis, but the incredible value they bring to the communities they serve remains constant. Here are some ways that paraprofessionals across the country are coming together to support their students and colleagues during this unprecedented and difficult time.

Let us know how your work has changed during the COVID-19 crisis. Are you contributing to your learning community in a new and innovative way? Send us photos; share your experience, your best practices, and innovative ideas for supporting students while schools are closed. If you are looking for resources to assist in the transition to distance learning and topical lesson ideas about COVID-19, check out bit.ly/sharemylesson-cv19. Email us at PSRP@AFT.org.

PARAPROFESSIONALS ARE staying safe and contributing to the school community by:

- Providing support to students via telephone during distance learning lessons;
- Providing on-call homework hotline/classwork support;
- Modifying lessons for students with special needs (audio or video recording of texts/books/test questions);
- Facilitating or assisting with videoconferencing learning;
- Modifying existing lesson plans to include distance learning techniques;
- Checking in with students and families to assess needs and connect families with resources;
- Preparing and/or delivering (bit.ly/34E12si) daily meals for students and families in need;
- Tutoring and supporting students (cbsloc.al/2V8HgCm) in mobile Wi-Fi hotspots (e.g., on the bus) (bit.ly/3bctcgK);
- Creating visuals to supplement distance learning lessons;
- Creating packets of lessons for students who aren't able to access digital learning resources;
- Reading to students over video (live or recorded) and phone;
- Making non-academic calls to students inquiring about their day, their questions and concerns, providing hope where there may be despair, sharing stories about similar experiences that highlight how the will and strength of the collective body ensures success—and most of all providing a listening ear.

Find these resources and more at www.aft.org/coronavirus

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of 1.7 million professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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