

PD for Paraprofessionals

Query – 03.27.2006

Query: I am looking for other SAHEs that have focused their Title II monies on education assistants/ paraprofessionals. More specifically, I want to get a hold of evaluation tools that other state coordinators are using to help me develop a plan for New Mexico.	
From: New Mexico	
Responses:	
Indiana	It's my understanding that you can not use the funds to target paraprofessionals. While certainly they may be included in partnerships, they can not be the main focus. The funds are to be used to improve teacher quality, not paraprofessionals. Although I know this is of keen interest right now as paraprofessionals are scrambling for certification to become "highly qualified." Libby Witt would be able to clarify this more clearly.
USDOE	I'm not sure if Rebecca was at the afternoon session with Richard and I on the 22nd, but as you may remember, there was substantial discussion reminding the SAHE coordinators that these funds were not to be used in a significant manner for paraprofessionals, except for those that are already highly qualified and are providing content-area support. The purpose of these grants is to provide high-quality, content-based professional development for teachers -- taking advantage of the arts and sciences faculty subject knowledge -- and not to focus primarily on education assistants and paraprofessionals.
Massachusetts	We fund several programs for paraprofessionals that are currently employed in schools to assist them in becoming licensed teachers. I am not sure what questions she has about this, but I am more than willing to discuss these in more detail if that would be useful. Regarding evaluation tools, evaluation of what? The statewide program, the individual programs or specifically the paraprofessional programs?
Rhode Island	Sorry. We have not been working with paraprofessionals. We concentrate on the teachers.
Colorado	We just awarded a grant to Front Range Community College who is partnering with Colorado Christian U that focused on paraprofessionals.