



"We try to get students to understand that they will need to apply this stuff to real life and to let them know why it's important to learn math."

— Andrew Stinson, math paraeducator, San Diego Paraeducators Chapter 759.

Photo by Kevin Walsh

What we do



Paraeducators who focus on helping students with mathematics think of different and creative ways to get students interested in math equations being taught in class. They prepare students for tests by employing various techniques, such as creating sample questions, math games and word problems to help students grasp the subject. Math paraeducators can work with small groups of students or one-on-one, depending on their needs.

facts about math paraeducators

- Math paraeducators usually have a college degree in math or a related subject. They also have extensive on-the-job training that helps them deal with situations that may arise in the classroom.
- Since math paraeducators often work with students who are having difficulty grasping the subject, they receive special training in the recognition of learning disabilities.
- Most paraeducators are part-time employees. According to the California Department of Education, during the 2007–2008 school years, there were 28,072 full-time and 75,678 part-time paraeducators statewide.
- According to California Department of Education statistics, during the 2008–2009 school year, 128,241 high school students—12.4 percent—were enrolled in advanced math courses.

INSIDER TIPS FROM MATH PARAEDUCATORS

- Remember to be patient when helping a student learn math. It will take different students different amounts of time to learn equations.
- Before a student learns the subject, s/he must first understand why knowing the subject is important. You can teach this by applying real-life examples to mathematical problems.
- A good way to help students master math is by having them create their own problems once they know the equations. This makes students think about the problems and about the steps they must take to reach the answer.

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Useful Web sites

- www.math.com
Materials and resources for teaching math
- www.mathsolutions.com
Resources for math educators

essential work | extraordinary workers



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