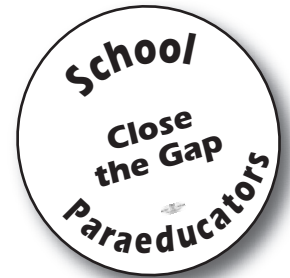


# Closing the Gap:

## Public School Paraeducators Leading for Quality

Paraeducators working for local school boards across the state provide a wide variety of valued services, such as:

- ▶ *Assisting teachers in the classroom with one-on-one and group instruction to students;*
- ▶ *Specializing in support for students with disabilities; and*
- ▶ *Providing important safety and supervisory tasks.*



Over 2,400 paraeducators working in 35 local school districts and Regional Education Service Centers (RESCs) across Connecticut have united in CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 to raise standards for their profession and for our state's public education.

## Raising Standards

In public school classrooms across Connecticut, certified teachers rely on their paraeducator colleagues for delivering instructional and related support services. This arrangement is intended to give teachers more time to spend on activities such as lesson planning and direct teaching.

Yet Connecticut's paraeducators earn an average of less than \$13 per hour, far below a livable wage, driving many out of the profession.

Paraeducators united in CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 are reaching out to our state and federal lawmakers for the resources needed to:

- ✓ *Provide paraeducators with training and preparation for specialized skills, such as instructing students with learning disabilities and autism;*
- ✓ *Reduce turn-over by establishing attainable education requirements and developing career ladders for Connecticut's paraeducators; and*
- ✓ *Increase retention by raising income standards and improving opportunities for access to affordable health care for paraeducators.*

## Leading for Quality

Contact Danny Medress at the CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 hall at (860) 951-6614, extension 111 for more information. Or visit our webpage at [www.seiu2001.org](http://www.seiu2001.org) for more on our efforts to close the achievement gap for our schoolchildren and the economic gap for our paraeducators.

760 Capitol Avenue ~ Hartford, CT 06106 ~ (800) 894-9479 ~ [www.seiu2001.org](http://www.seiu2001.org)

