

Rationale for Special Education Instructional Paraprofessionals for Franklin-Simpson Middle School

Two instructional paraprofessional positions are needed to support the academic and behavioral needs of students with disabilities in inclusive, co-taught general education classrooms. These paraprofessionals will assist in the delivery of accommodations, modifications, and individualized support by each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), ensuring compliance with federal and state mandates under IDEA.

As the number and complexity of students with IEPs in general education settings increases, the need for trained paraprofessional support becomes more critical. Instructional paraprofessionals play a vital role in:

- **Implementing Accommodations and Modifications:**
Assisting in the delivery of IEP-mandated supports such as note-taking, preferential seating, extended time, small-group instruction, and modified assignments.
- **Supporting Differentiated Instruction:**
Collaborating with general and special education teachers to provide targeted support that allows students with disabilities to access the general education curriculum in a co-taught environment.
- **Promoting Inclusive Practices:**
Enhancing student engagement and independence in inclusive settings while minimizing the need for pull-out services.
- **Behavioral and Social-Emotional Support:**
Assisting students with behavior management strategies, self-regulation, and peer interaction to foster a positive learning environment.
- **Compliance and Documentation:**
Supporting the collection of progress monitoring data and IEP implementation documentation in collaboration with certified staff.

The two instructional paraprofessionals will replace the current contracted certified position at Franklin-Simpson Middle School. This change in staffing will help maintain fidelity to IEP implementation and provide immediate, responsive support within the general education setting.

With Kind Regards,

Kelly Baker, Director of Special Education