



ALTOONA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Aspire. Achieve. Succeed. Dream

November 15, 2018

November 14 is Educational Support Professionals Day



The Altoona Area School District has employed Educational Support Professionals for over 40 plus years. While the term "Educational Support Professional" may include non-instructional employees such as paraprofessionals, secretaries, custodians, nurses, food service employees, and bus drivers; the Altoona Area Educational Support Professionals of Pennsylvania only includes paraprofessionals.

These paraprofessionals perform many duties to assist students academically, socially and emotionally day in and day out throughout the school year. The duties they perform range from assisting students with life skills activities, autistic support skills, offering emotional support, and learning support. They also provide additional support to the special education teachers that maintain self-contained and regular education classrooms. They are CPR and first aid trained, as well as non-violent crisis intervention trained. Most Educational Support Professionals have at least an associates degree, and some, even a bachelors degree. In addition to their educational requirements, they must also complete a minimum of twenty credit hours per year of professional development trainings to maintain a highly qualified status.

These professionals play a vital role in the support and development of Altoona Area students.