

UNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION BOARD REPORT

APRIL 2024

PARAPROFESSIONAL APPRECIATION DAY

We are thrilled to celebrate Paraprofessional Day on April 3, 2024, a day dedicated to honoring the hardworking and dedicated educational assistants who play a crucial role in supporting our students and staff members here at Unity School District. Our educational assistants work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that our students receive the individualized support and attention they need to thrive academically and emotionally. From assisting in the classroom to providing one-on-one support for students with special needs, our paraprofessionals go above and beyond to make a positive impact on the lives of our students each and every day.



NOT PICTURED:
TANYA
ODEGARD

ALICIA
BROUSIL

**Every Child is One Caring
Adult Away From a
Success Story - John Shipp**

UNITY'S SUPPORT STAFF ROCKS!

Paraprofessionals make lasting and impactful marks on the lives of the students they work with.

Paraprofessionals in the high school work 1:1 with students, provide support to students in regular education classrooms, and enrich learning experiences in the special education classroom. Paraprofessionals are with students during their most challenging and rewarding moments. We could not do our jobs without the amazing connections these talented and dedicated people provide to our students!

- Jaime Weness, High School Special Education Teacher

Educational assistants allow some students to participate in the regular education classroom.

They provide support to students and to teachers. They can deescalate a situation and provide assistance to a student struggling to cope with emotions. They show kindness to all students. A school day would not be as productive or enjoyable without each of our educational assistants. Their individual traits are an asset that cannot be ignored.

- Sara Mattson, Elementary Special Education Teacher

STATE TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

State testing refers to standardized tests that are administered by the state to measure students' academic progress and performance. These tests are typically given March to April of the school year and are used to assess students' proficiency in subjects such as math, reading, social studies, and science. Grades 3-8 and 10 participate in Forward Testing. 9th and 10th graders take the PreACT Secure and 11th graders the ACT.

Accommodations are changes or adjustments made to testing conditions in order to provide students with disabilities or individual needs the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and abilities on the state tests. Accommodations can include things like extra time, a separate testing location, or the use of assistive technology. Most accommodations need to be part of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan.

It is important for schools to provide accommodations to students who need them in order to ensure that all students have the opportunity to perform to the best of their abilities on state tests. This can help to ensure that students with disabilities or individual needs are not unfairly disadvantaged in the assessment process.