



PROVISO AREA FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

"QUALITY EDUCATION WITH CARE FOR THE HUMAN SPIRIT".

PAEC CENTER BOARDROOM - 9:00 AM

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

AGENDA

1. **ROLL CALL**
2. **CLOSED SESSION**
3. **RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**
4. **APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES**
5. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **APPROVAL OF BILLS**
 - B. **APPROVAL OF PAYROLL**
 - C. **APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL REPORT**
6. **OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
7. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **APPROVAL OF CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT REPORT**
 - B. **AUTHORIZATION TO PUBLISH THE AMENDED 2024-2025 BUDGET**
 - C. **FOOD SERVICE BID**
8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INFORMATIONAL REPORT**
 - A. **CURRENT DISTRICT CHILD COUNT 2024-2025**

The information is attached.
 - B. **CURRENT ENROLLMENT AND CLASSROOM STAFFING PATTERNS 2024-2025**

The information is attached.
 - C. **PROJECTED DISTRICT CHILD COUNT 2025-2026**
 - D. **PROJECTED DISTRICT ENROLLMENT AND CLASSROOM STAFFING 2025-2026**
 - E. **TRANSITION REPORTS**

The information is attached.
 - F. **INITIAL REFERRALS**

The information is attached.
 - G. **POLICE REPORTS**

There were 2 police calls in May (1-PAEC Elementary and 1-PAEC High School).
 - H. **PAEC ACTIVITY FUND**

The information is attached.
 - I. **DUPAGE/WEST COOK**

The May 8th DWC meeting has been cancelled and rescheduled for May 29th at 9:00 AM at SASSED.
 - J. **PAEC EVENTS**

The information is attached.

K. PAEC GRADUATION DATES

PAEC Elementary: May 14, 2025 @ 5:30pm

PAEC High School: May 15, 2025 @ 5:30pm

PAEC Center

- Transition: May 20, 2025 @ 1:00pm
- High School: May 21, 2025 @ 1:00pm
- Elementary: May 22, 2025 @ 1:00pm
- PAEC Academy: May 21, 2025 @10:00am

L. SPECIAL OLYMPICS FLAG FOOTBALL

M. PAEC ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

The information is attached.

N. PAEC PROGRAM UPDATES

The information is attached.

9. OTHER/ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE GOVERNING BOARD

MEETING RECAP

- **Amended FY2025 Budget Review scheduled for May 21, 2025 at 6:00 PM before the regular scheduled Governing Board Meeting.**
- **Food Service Bid**
- **Graduation Dates -**
 1. PAEC Elementary: May 14, 2025 @ 5:30pm
 2. PAEC High School: May 15, 2025 @ 5:30pm
 3. PAEC CenterTransition: May 20, 2025 @ 1:00pm
 4. PAEC Center High School: May 21, 2025 @ 1:00pm
 5. PAEC Center Elementary: May 22, 2025 @ 1:00pm
 6. PAEC Academy: May 21, 2025 @10:00am
- **DuPage/West Cook resolution to be voted by each member district.**
- **TRS Retirement Presentation, May 19th at 3:00 PM in the PAEC High School Gym.**

10. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

11. NEXT MEETING

The next PAEC Executive Board meeting will be on June 18, 2025. Dr. Dan Sullivan-D88 will be facilitating the meeting. Dr. Kevin Suchinski will be the Executive Board Representative for the Governing Board's May 21, 2025 meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

**PAYROLL AGENDA
APRIL 2025**

	GROSS	FICA	RETIREMENT	BENEFITS	TOTAL
	<u>4/15/2025</u>	<u>4/15/2025</u>	<u>4/15/2025</u>	<u>4/15/2025</u>	<u>4/15/2025</u>
Education Fund	\$ 489,478.46	\$ 20,131.46	\$ 14,319.24	\$114,194.29	\$ 638,123.45
Building Fund	\$ 19,288.68	\$ 1,468.65	\$ 891.14	\$3,276.97	\$ 24,925.44
TOTALS	\$ 508,767.14	\$ 21,600.11	\$ 15,210.38	\$ 117,471.26	\$ 663,048.89

	GROSS	FICA	RETIREMENT	BENEFITS	TOTAL
	<u>4/30/2025</u>	<u>4/30/2025</u>	<u>4/30/2025</u>	<u>4/30/2025</u>	<u>4/30/2025</u>
Education Fund	\$ 484,098.52	\$ 20,509.51	\$ 14,607.20	\$120,334.47	\$ 639,549.70
Building Fund	\$ 17,602.71	\$ 1,339.70	\$ 813.26	\$3,484.63	\$ 23,240.30
TOTALS	\$ 501,701.23	\$ 21,849.21	\$ 15,420.46	\$ 123,819.10	\$ 662,790.00

**ACTION ITEM – PERSONNEL REPORT
April 2025**

A. Employment

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Trainette Latham | Human Resource Coordinator |
| Effective Date: | May 21, 2025 |
| Compensation: | \$80,000 |
| 2. LaShonda McDaniel | Business Manager |
| Effective Date: | July 1, 2025 |
| Compensation: | \$115,000 |
| 3. Sara Kline | Principal-PAEC Academy |
| Effective Date: | August 1, 2025 |
| Compensation: | \$93,000 |
| 4. Dr. Paul Starck-King | Interim CSBO/CFO |
| Effective Date: | July 1, 2025 |
| Compensation: | \$180 per hour for 120 hours |
| 5. Christina DePasquale-Stehn | Resource Teacher (Part-Time)- D209 |
| Effective Date: | August 12, 2025 |
| Compensation: | \$180 per hour for 120 hou |

B. Resignations

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Stella Ginley | Teacher |
| Resignation Date: | May 29, 2025 |
| 2. Laura Mayer | Principal -PAEC Academy (Retired) |
| Resignation Date: | May 29, 2025 |

C. Transfers

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Udochi Nwoko | Perm-Sub Teacher (PAEC Elementary Intervention) |
| Effective Date: | April 28, 2025 |
| Transfer from: | PAEC Center |
| 2. Maria Hernandez | 1:1 Program Assistant (D87) PAEC Center |
| Effective Date: | May 2, 2025 |
| Transfer from: | PAEC Center (D209) CCF |
| 3. Vaurice Patterson | 1:1 Program Assistant (D88) PAEC Elementary |
| Effective Date: | April 29, 2025 |
| Transfer from: | Classroom Program Assistant, -PAEC Elementary |
| 4. Jamari Scott | Substitute Program Assistant |
| Effective Date: | April 29, 2025 |
| Transfer from: | 1:1 Program Assistant PAEC Elementary |

D. Terminations

There are no terminations at this time.

E. Leave of Absence

1. Precious Clay
Effective Date:

Program Assistant
Beginning April 9, 2025 until May 1, 2025



May Upcoming Events

PAEC GRADUATIONS

PAEC Elementary- May 14th @ 5:30pm

PAEC High School -May 15th @ 5:30pm

PAEC Center Transition- May 20th @ 1:00pm

PAEC Center High School- May 21st @ 1:00pm

PAEC Academy- May 22nd @ 10:00am

PAEC Center Elementary- May 22nd @ 1:00pm



1 PAEC Academy
Field Day
Wear Green

2 PAEC Academy
Special Olympic
Car Wash Fundraiser
@9:30-1:00pm \$5

9 PAEC Programs
1 Hour Late Start

9 PAEC High School
Senior Pictures

9 PAEC EC
Parent Toilet
Traing
Meeting Part
2

13 PAEC High School
Senior Trip
Scene 75
Romeoville, IL

14 PAEC Center
High School Picnic

15 PAEC HS, EC, Elementary
Therapy Dog Visits

16 PAEC Center
Elementary Picnic

18 PAEC
Special Olympic
State Qualifying
Tournament @ Hinsdale
South

26 PAEC Programs
No School
Memorial Day

29 PAEC Programs
Last Day of School



PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Debbie Haza



ADMINISTRATIVE
SECRETARY

APRIL 2025

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?

I HAVE BEEN AT PAEC FOR 17 YEARS.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?

LEARNING NEW SPANISH VOCABULARY FROM OFELIA.

WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?

BE VERY ORGANIZED.

TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.

BIGFOOT LIVES IN MY BACKYARD.

PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Mary Kersemeier



**SPEECH LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGIST**

APRIL 2025

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?

I HAVE HAD A VERY LONG CAREER AS A SPEECH PATHOLOGIST, AND IT HAS BEEN MY JOY TO SPEND THE LAST 5 YEARS SERVING THE STUDENTS HERE IN THE PAEC AREA

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?

I BENEFITED FROM SPEECH THERAPY MYSELF AS A FIFTH GRADER, AND I LOVE SEEING MY STUDENTS GROW IN THEIR SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SKILLS, AS WELL AS THEIR CONFIDENCE AS COMMUNICATORS.

WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?

I THINK IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO FIRST GET TO KNOW OUR STUDENTS AS INDIVIDUALS, WHAT THEIR LIKES AND DISLIKES ARE, WHAT THEY ARE GOOD AT AND WHAT THEY STRUGGLE WITH. THEN WE CAN EASE EFFECTIVELY INTO THE INDIVIDUALIZED THERAPY PROCESS, AND WATCH THEM GROW AND SUCCEED!

TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.

KNOWN TO MY STUDENTS AS MS. K.

PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Evelyn Carreto



**INTERPRETER/
ADMINISTRATIVE
SECRETARY**

APRIL 2025

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?

I'VE BEEN PART OF THE PAEC FAMILY FOR ALMOST 19 YEARS. 9 YEARS AS A PA AND 10 AS AN INTERPRETER/ ADMIN SECRETARY

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?

AS AN INTERPRETER I ENJOY HELPING MY SPANISH SPEAKING FAMILIES TO UNDERSTAND THE INS AND OUTS OF THEIR CHILD'S IEP AND THE SPECIAL ED SERVICES THEY ARE RECEIVING. I LOVE TO SEE THE PROGRESS THE STUDENTS HAVE MADE THROUGHOUT THE YEARS. AS AN ADMIN SECRETARY I'VE LEARNED SO MUCH AS TO WHAT I DID NOT KNOW OR SEE WHAT IT TAKES TO RUN OUR PROGRAM. I ALSO ENJOY WORKING WITH A GREAT TEAM.

WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?

BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH COWORKERS AND PARENTS HELPS CREATE A SUPPORTIVE NETWORK WHERE EVERYONE CAN GROW TOGETHER.

TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.

I HAVE TWO BEAUTIFUL ADULT CHILDREN. MY SON IS AWAY AT ISU FINISHING HIS 3RD YEAR AND MY DAUGHTER LIVES IN OHIO. SHE GAVE ME THE BEST VALENTINE'S GIFT THIS YEAR OF BECOMING A GRANDMA. EVEN THOUGH MY GRANDSON LIVES IN ANOTHER STATE WE FACETIME EVERY DAY AND SPEAK SPANISH TO HIM. I'VE ALSO SEEN A FEW OF THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD BOTH MODERN AND ANCIENT.

PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Kim Spearman



**PERMANENT
SUB-TEACHER**

APRIL 2025

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?

I HAVE WORKED AT PAEC FOR 5 YEARS.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?

I AM A TEACHER, AND I ENJOY BEING A TEACHER. WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I WANTED TO BE A TEACHER, SO I COUNT MYSELF LUCKY TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FULFILL A LIFELONG DREAM OF TEACHING.

WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?

I WOULD ADVISE OTHERS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES BY JOINING A TEACHING ORGANIZATION AND PARTICIPATING IN THE CLASSES AND CONFERENCES THEY OFFER.

TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.

*I WAS CLASSICALLY TRAINED AS A TEEN. ALTHOUGH I AM NOT IN VOICE ANYMORE, I HAVE ASPIRATIONS OF JOINING A COMMUNITY CHOIR BECAUSE I TRULY LOVE TO SING.
I WILL SEND A PIC ASAP.*

PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Damien Antwine



**SCHOOL
PSYCHOLOGIST**

APRIL 2025

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?

I HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH PAEC FOR APPROXIMATELY 3 YEARS.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?

ONE OF THE MOST REWARDING ASPECTS OF MY POSITION IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO CHILDREN ACROSS VARIOUS SCHOOLS. THIS EXPERIENCE ALLOWS ME TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT AND HELPS ME FORGE MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE STAFF AND STUDENTS. EACH INTERACTION PRESENTS A CHANCE TO CONNECT, LEARN, AND SUPPORT THE VIBRANT COMMUNITY WITHIN THESE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS.

WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?

AS A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST, THINKING CREATIVELY AND EMBRACING A BROADER PERSPECTIVE, RECOGNIZING AND APPRECIATING THE RICH TAPESTRY OF CULTURES WITHIN THE STUDENT COMMUNITY YOU SERVE IS ESSENTIAL. UNDERSTANDING EACH STUDENT'S UNIQUE BACKGROUNDS, TRADITIONS, AND EXPERIENCES ALLOWS YOU TO FOSTER AN INCLUSIVE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT, PROMOTING THEIR EMOTIONAL AND ACADEMIC GROWTH.

TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.

I AM CURRENTLY IN SCHOOL PURSUING MY DOCTORATE IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY.

PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Anne Nystrom



TEACHER
APRIL 2025

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?

I HAVE BEEN BLESSED TO HAVE BEEN PART OF THE PAEC FAMILY AND GETTING TO KNOW THE WONDERFUL STAFF AND STUDENTS FOR 5 YEARS.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?

I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED TEACHING THE FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS FOR READING AND MATH. ALL STUDENTS HAVE DIFFERENT ABILITIES AND YOU JUST TRY TO BUILD ON WHAT THEY ARE ABLE TO DO TO HELP THEM PROGRESS AS MUCH AS THEY CAN TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE. I THINK IT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR STUDENTS TO DO AS MUCH AS THEY CAN WITH GUIDANCE.

WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?

I THINK THERE ARE SO MANY TALENTED TEACHERS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS, I LIKE TO SEE WHAT THEY DO ALSO.

TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.

I LOVE NATURE. WHEN I WAS YOUNG, OUR HOUSE WAS A MILE OR TWO FROM SCHOOL, SO I LEARNED TO LOVE WALKING. I STILL LOVE TO WALK AND TAKE A WALK EVERY DAY. I HAVE PUT A LIMIT ON MYSELF AND DON'T GO OUT BELOW 20 DEGREES ANYMORE OR WHEN IT IS LIGHTNING. I ALSO LOVE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE AND GLAMP (GLAMOUR CAMPING) WITH OUR FIFTH WHEEL. IT ALLOWS US TO ENJOY THE OUTSIDE BUT NOT SUFFER.

PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Tania Didiw



PROGRAM ASSISTANT
APRIL 2025

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?

I HAVE BEEN AT PAEC OVER TEN YEARS .

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?

WHAT I ENJOY THE MOST ABOUT BEING A P: A IS THAT I GET TO WATCH AND GROW WITH THE STUDENTS.

WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?

DON'T TAKE ANYTHING PERSONAL AND ALWAYS BE KIND.

TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.

I ENJOY TAKING MY DOG LUCY FRANCESCA FOR WALKS AT THE PARK AND SPENDING TIME WITH MY DAUGHTER AT THE MALL.

PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Julia Barnicle



**LEAD OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPIST/PHYSICAL
THERAPIST
APRIL 2025**

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?

I HAVE BEEN AT PAEC FOR 28 ½ YEARS, AND A PAEC DIRECT HIRE FOR 12 OF THOSE YEARS.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?

AT FIRST, I DIDN'T WANT THE POSITION OF BEING THE OT/PT LEAD THERAPIST. I HAD TWO YOUNG BOYS AND WAS DOING THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM AT UIC. I DIDN'T HAVE TIME. BUT, SOMEONE SAID TO ME, IF YOU TAKE THE POSITION, YOU WON'T JUST BE INCORPORATING CHANGE AS A TREATING PHYSICAL THERAPIST, YOU CAN HAVE A SAY AND BE A PART OF MAKING THE CHANGES FOR THE GOOD OF THE STUDENTS AND STAFF. TAKING THAT COMMENT TO HEART, I HAVE TRIED MY BEST TO CREATE AND MAKE BETTER CHANGES FOR THE STUDENTS AND STAFF. I ENJOY HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY AND FLEXIBILITY TO WORK IN ALL THE COOPERATIVE DISTRICTS WITH STUDENTS AND STAFF.

WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?

GET LOTS OF SLEEP, HAVE LOTS OF PATIENCE, HAVE THICK SKIN, AND LEARN TO LAUGH A LOT.

TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.

I ENJOY CAMPING, HIKING, AND CANOEING. SCOUTING WITH MY YOUNGER SON HAS ALLOWED ME TO EXPERIENCE HIGH ADVENTURES SUCH AS HIKING 50 MILES OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL, CANOEING IN THE BOUNDARY WATERS, SAILING IN THE FLORIDA KEYS, KAYAKING ON THE NEW RIVER IN WEST VIRGINIA, AND HIKING AT PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH IN NEW MEXICO. THESE TRIPS HAVE EARNED ME THE TRIPLE CROWN AND GRAND SLAM OF NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE AWARDS IN SCOUTING.

PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Irene Jasulaitis



OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPIST

APRIL 2025

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?

I HAVE BEEN AT PAEC FOR 20 YEARS.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?

WORKING WITH THE STUDENTS.

WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?

BE FLEXIBLE AND A GOOD TEAM PLAYER

TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.

I HAVE A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR.

PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Consuelo Martínez



**EARLY CHILDHOOD
PRINCIPAL
APRIL 2025**

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?

I STARTED WORKING AT PAEC IN THE 2012-13 SCHOOL YEAR AS A SPEECH PATHOLOGIST IN THE EC PROGRAM. I MOVED INTO A SUPERVISORY POSITION IN 2015.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?

I LOVE SEEING THE PROGRESS OUR STUDENTS MAKE. I LIKE HELPING THE PARENTS WITH THE TRANSITION TO SCHOOL FOR THEIR STUDENTS AND TO PREPARE THEM TO BE THEIR CHILD'S ADVOCATE. I LOVE SEEING HOW THE EC TEAMS WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS.

WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?

ASK FOR HELP. SEEK SUPPORT FROM YOUR COLLEAGUES. INCLUDE YOUR STAFF IN THE DECISION MAKING SO THAT THERE IS BUY IN AND TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE IS WORKING TOWARDS THE SAME GOAL.

TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.

I HAD 10 MINUTES OF FAME ON THE OPRAH SHOW IN 1995.

PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Paula Parat



TEACHER
APRIL 2025

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?

I worked here for seven years, left for 10 and returned 14 years ago. So I have been back at PAEC for 14 years

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?

The best that I can explain this question would be that my passion has always been working with children with special needs. It has been what I wanted to do since I was a little girl, and I am very happy that I have been able to fulfill that dream with a career as a Special Education Teacher. Teaching children with special needs should not be any different than teaching children! If you treat the children with respect and set your expectations high, then you work with them to achieve the highest ability that they are able to achieve

WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?

To always put yourself in their position. See things from their perspective. Think outside the box. Never underestimate what the student is able to do until you have worked on a task for a long time. Put the work in at the beginning and the progress will speak for itself. Things do not happen overnight with the special population, but if you set expectations for them and work towards them, progress will be seen. STOP enabling the students just because they have a special quality about them. Working with the students for their independence, sometimes the littlest thing that we take for granted can be a big task for them, but if you never allow them to achieve it, you will never know if they are capable of it. Treat the students with respect, talk to them, walk with them, guide them, model for them, do not treat them any less than you would want to be treated

TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.

I met my husband in the Triton Troupers Circus 43 years ago when I performed as a circus acrobatic. I have been coaching gymnastics in a High School setting for 23 years. I have been volunteering for a special needs gymnastic/cheerleading team for 22 years. I performed at the World's Cheer Competition in Orlando, Florida representing the USA and yes I wore a Red, White, and Blue cheerleading uniform where we WON the Gold medal. I have two children, my son Robert who served in the Navy and coaches gymnastics, and my daughter Jacqueline who is a PE teacher and also coaches high school gymnastics. I love to spend money on plants and gardening. I love to take long road trips for vacation. I love spending time with my friends. I love my new Golden Retriever puppy, and I LOVE spending time with my one and only grandson Dominic who is my WORLD

PAEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Patrina Williamson



TEACHER
APRIL 2025

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT PAEC?

I have been working at PAEC for 19 yrs. First as a Program Assistant, now I am a certified Teacher

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB/POSITION?

I love working with young children because they are the ones who most need adults who believe in them—until they learn to believe in themselves. I am passionate about supporting both children and their families, helping to bridge the gap between home and school. By creating strong, consistent connections, I aim to set students up for long-term success both academically and personally.

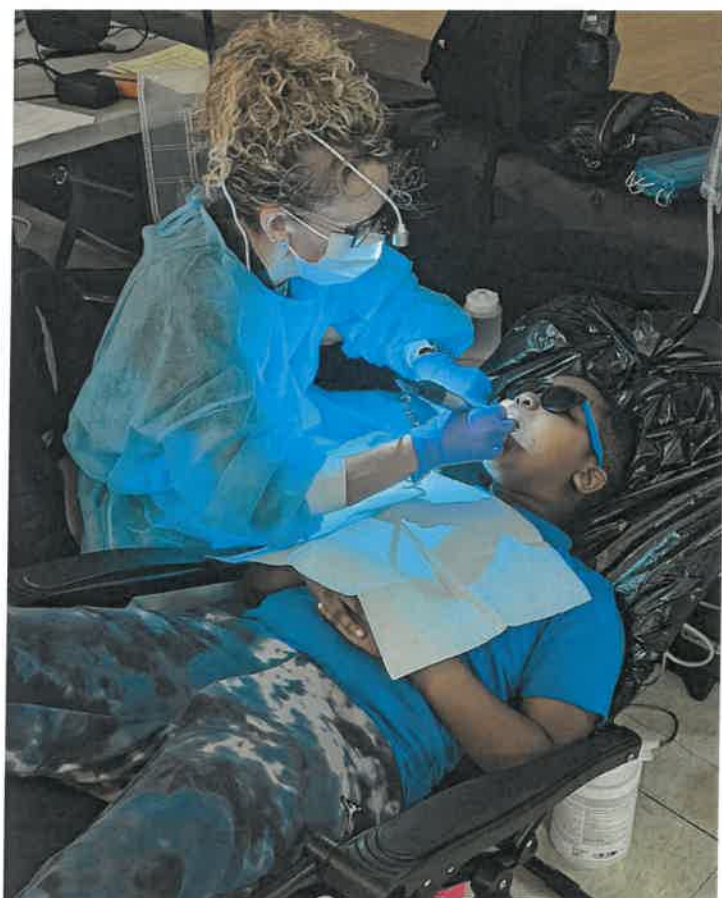
WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS IN YOUR POSITION TO HELP THEM EXCEL?

Stay humble, because even the best lesson plan can always be refined and improved. To truly excel, it's essential to know how to lead, and just as importantly, how to follow. I've learned that strong, effective leadership in the classroom sets a positive tone for the entire team. At the same time, I fully recognize that teaching is never a one-person job. I'm incredibly fortunate to work alongside Ms. Claudia, the most amazing assistant any teacher could ask for. Our partnership thrives on mutual respect and a shared belief that all children can learn. I would never ask her to do something I wouldn't do myself. While I know my role, I also believe that being hands-on and engaged with students in every capacity helps us better understand and support students' individual needs. True success in the classroom comes from flexibility, a commitment to going the extra mile, and open, consistent communication with both staff and families to build a positive, collaborative learning environment. Talk to the student, not at them as we respect them!

TELL ME SOMETHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY ABOUT YOURSELF.

When I'm teaching, I'll do everything short of standing on my head to capture my students' attention—and if that's what it takes, I just might try it! My path to the classroom has been anything but traditional. As a teenager, I worked as a plus-size model. Later, I pursued cosmetology and built a career as a hairstylist. I also explored my creative side as a party and event planner, designing unforgettable experiences and beautiful decor. Eventually, I followed a calling I couldn't ignore and returned to school to study education. Through every twist and turn, I gained skills that now serve me in the classroom—and I've finally arrived at what I was born to do. I truly believe that teachers are born to teach!

PAEC Academy - Dentist Visit!



PAEC ACADEMY – SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY



PAEC ACADEMY – Egg Hunt



PAEC Academy –100 Easter Baskets Courtesy of Township of Proviso



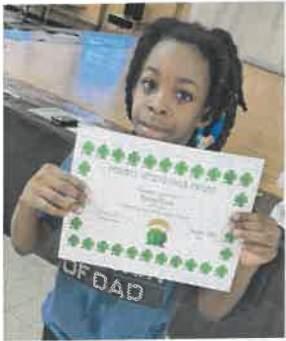
PAEC ACADEMY – Guess the total Game! Winners: Azariah & Ceyon!



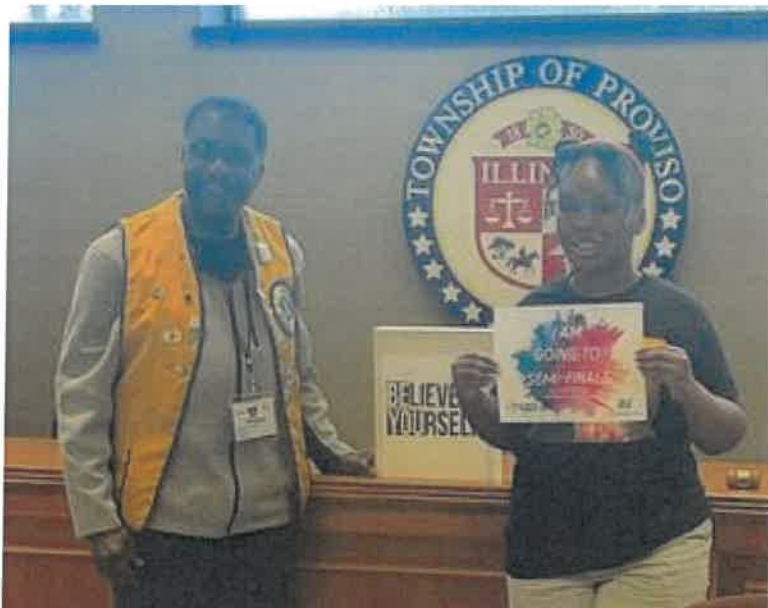
PAEC Academy – Staff Breakfast



PAEC Academy – Perfect Attendance For the month of March



PAEC ACADEMY – Our Very Own Raina Woods is advancing to the Finals!



PAEC ACADEMY – TIGERS SOCCER TEAM

Tie Game against Cove in Northbrook 1 to 1



WOOHOOOOOOOOO, WAY TO
GO TIGERS!!!!

PAEC Academy – Fitness Class With Coach Vince



PAEC ACADEMY – Earth Cleaning Day!

Ms. Drankos' Class



PAEC ACADEMY – Cernan Earth & Space Center Field Trip





*You are cordially invited to our
P.A.E.C. High School
graduation!*

(Graduates to arrive at 4:30 pm.)

Thursday, May 15th, 2025

at 5:30pm

P.A.E.C. High School

1636 S. 10th Ave.

Maywood, IL 60153

(Gymnasium)

(Doors will open for guests at 5:00 pm.)



PAEC Proviso Area for Exceptional Children



PAEC PROGRAM UPDATES FROM APRIL 2025

PAEC Academy at Divine Infant

- April sneaked up at PAEC Academy! Lots of fun activities for our students were held.
- The dentist visit was a huge success; 27 students signed up for it!
- Students and staff proudly represented PAEC Academy on School Spirit Day.
- The Egg Hunt held before Good Friday was fun and a great learning experience for our students, who practiced sharing and patience.
- A HUGE THANK YOU to the Township of Proviso for the 100 Easter Baskets donated for all of our PAEC Programs. Many smiles were seen leaving the building!
- A fun activity for the whole school is guessing the number of treats in a container; CONGRATULATIONS to Azariah Rodriguez and Ceyon Wormely for being the closest without going over.
- The Monthly Staff Breakfast had everyone full and cheerful, sharing a nice time to catch up and eat. Thank you to Ms. Christianson & Mr. Acevedo for the nice treats.
- Perfect Attendance for March was celebrated!
- Proviso's Got Talent took place this month; PAEC Academy's Raina Woods has advanced to the finals! **GOOD LUCK, RAINA!**
- The PAEC Academy Tigers Soccer Team tied with COVE from Northbrook in their game. Go Tigers, keep up the great work.
- Coach Vince started the fitness class, and students are putting their best effort with lots of encouragement from the staff.
- On Earth Day, Ms. Drankos' class decided to go for a walk and "clean up"
- The visit to the Cernan Earth and Space Center was an "out of this world" experience!
- Lots of fun activities will be held in May as the ABC Countdown has begun, and PAEC Academy will host a Car Wash! We hope to see you there!

PAEC Early Childhood

The Early Childhood Program had a month-long celebration of our amazing students on the Autism Spectrum. To kick off the month, our social worker, Monette Carlos, hosted the first of two toilet training parent workshops on April 11th. The second one will be on May 9th. The first workshop was intended to help the parents determine when their child is ready to be toilet-trained and how to get the house ready to start the training. The second workshop will focus on how to start taking data, implement the toilet training, and to support their children through the process. We ended the month with a visit by our

favorite music therapist, Mr. Craig, in the morning and the Therapy dogs in the morning and afternoon on April 25th.

The deadline to register for summer school was April 28th, and we had enough preschool-age students registered to open two classrooms for the extended school year.

- The themes for April were Spring and Bugs.
- The learning targets for the month were:
- COLORS: Orange, Green, Black
- SHAPES: Rectangle, Diamond, and Oval
- LETTERS: D, I, and K
- NUMBERS: 11 and 12

All the learning targets were reviewed from April 28 to May 2.

PAEC Therapeutic Day Elementary School

- Staff/Student
 - Current enrollment- 49 students (3 diagnostic placements)
 - Staffing- 3 vacancies (three permanent sub teachers)
- Transition Report
 - District 87- 2
 - District 88- 1
 - District 91- 0
 - District 92- 0
 - District 93- 0
- Monthly Update:
 - Students won their first soccer game last week! Testing wrapped up and the students worked very hard. The therapy dogs were here and the students enjoyed it! King transitioned back to Sunnyside full time this month. The staff and students celebrated him well!



- Behavior Management:
 - RTOs- 1

PAEC Therapeutic Day High School Academics

Our schoolwide ACT, Pre-ACT Secure, and 9 Pre-ACT have been completed and submitted. Mr. Wideman met with teachers to go over the Spring MAP Scores. Staff met with students and contacted their guardians on Parent Teacher Conference Day, which was on April 17. Ms. Lorek and Ms. Lindsey reviewed the Senior Graduate List with Proviso, along with all Senior Transcripts. Seniors will take finals on May 12 and May 14. The rest of the school will have Semester Finals May 27-29.

Happenings

May 9, 2025: Senior Picture 10:30 (No charge for pictures)

Seniors can come dressed in their outfits, we will have a cap and gown for pictures.

May 12, 2025: Finals all day (Burger and Hotdog Fundraiser for school), Seniors get lunch on us!

May 13, 2025: SENIOR TRIP to Scene 75 in Romeoville (No charge for Seniors)

May 14, 2025: Senior Final-Extra Time/Make Up

**May 15, 2025: Graduation- SENIORS must arrive at 4:30.
The doors open at 5 pm, and Graduation starts at 5:30**

May 23, 2025: PLCCA Basketball/BBQ positive incentive

May 27-29, 2025: Finals

Transitioning Students

The student behavior levels, attendance, and grades are monitored weekly to ensure that they can maintain the mainstream criteria set up for the PAEC Program. Currently, there is one half-day student at Proviso East. We have two students who will be half-day at PMSA for the new school year 8/25.

Physical Management	0
Police Calls	1
Ambulance	1
Restorative Meeting	5

24-25 Current Enrollment

87 Students

PAEC Therapeutic Day High School Vocational Program

PAEC Work Training Program and Vocational Program Enrollments:

- After School Janitorial: 4 students
- Garden/Hilton Hotels: 6 students
- Fire House Subs: 1 student
- RR Trade School: Will resume next school year
- Financial Literacy: 7 students
- West40 Food Pantry: 3 students

Mr. Loving is working on scheduling the Food Handlers Certificate training that we will be hosting at PAEC High School during the day for all interested students. This certificate will help our students become more qualified candidates for local work opportunities. Once the training is completed, we will start a new worksite at Smoothie King.

PAEC Center School

We returned from Spring Break rejuvenated for end-of-the-year activities!

On April 8th, the elementary school students attended Victor Pacini's Erin's Law Programming, where they learned about safe versus unsafe touch.

Marrea Winnega continues to support the Autism program with monthly meetings to provide support and strategies for dealing with behaviors. The teachers and staff find this very helpful, especially when new behaviors arise.

The Special Events Committee has been working hard on getting Prom ready! Prom will be held on May 8th from 5:30-8:30 at the Broadview Park District. We are again teaming up with Leisure and Recreation Services, who have been sponsoring us for the past few years.

A Year-End Alphabet Countdown started on April 23rd to commemorate the last 26 days of school.

Warm weather has the students out on the new playground again, which they are enjoying.

Graduation Field Trip is scheduled for May 7th! The Chicago Dogs baseball game has been a hit for the past few years.

Everyone is finishing up testing DLM, FAST, SANDI, and Fastbridge.

It has been a busy month!

PAEC Center School Vocational/Transition Program

We currently have 3 students employed competitively. Unemployed students are directed to apply for competitive employment online, in person, or through direct contact with employers. These students are monitored by Vocational Coordinator or Transition Staff via in-person, one-on-one meets, emails, and/or text messaging. When students apply for competitive employment on their own, they are instructed to send me screenshots of completed applications. We also keep records of applications, students complete with me and/or the staff.

Students who are currently employed are on the chart below:

	Employment	Hours	Job
1	Jewel	20 hours	Bagger/Stocker
2	Goodwill	15-20 hours per week	Store Clerk
3	Jewel	Part Time	Bagger

Students volunteer for 6 volunteer job sites this 2024-25 school year, where students are being trained on job skills that will increase their job readiness skills. We are still looking to increase the number of sites we have, with a hopeful increase in staff.

We are training our Transition students to complete job tasks, answer mock interview questions, complete mock job applications, and more. I set up individual meetings with these students. We are practicing mock interviews and completing mock applications. Ensuring ID's have not expired, or get renewed in a timely manner. Students are completing live applications, which we are currently waiting to hear from employers as well as contacting employers to follow up on our applications.

We are working hard to obtain competitive employment for our students. We have had some interviews and have been unsuccessful in obtaining employment. We are continuing to interview and follow up with employers to get our students hired.

PAEC Behavior Intervention Team

The PAEC Behavior Intervention Team continues to provide behavioral support and interventions to reduce undesired behaviors within the Proviso Township school districts.

The Elementary Behavior Coaches are required to implement the 8-Week Step Interventions & Support Curriculum, developed based on evidence-based data, and document.

Total number of PAEC Behavior Intervention Team: 15

Active: 15

Projected total number for 2025/2026 Academic Year is (16)

The coordinator will begin interviewing for the open position during the summer months

Proviso East: 3

Proviso West: 4 (current number is 3)

District 87: 2

Floating Coaches (PAEC Academy, District 88, District 93, District 92, District 87): 7

There were a total of 1 individual student referrals in March.

There were a total of 0 classroom referrals submitted in March. District

803 - PAEC Academy

PAEC Academy:

One Coach continues to provide additional support to teachers and personnel regarding undesired behaviors within the classrooms.

District 87 - Jefferson Primary | Sunnyside Intermediate | Whittier Primary | Riley Intermediate | Northlake Middle School | MacArthur Middle School

Jefferson:

There are currently 3 Coaches who continue to provide ongoing support for teachers, students, and personnel for previous assignments that have been completed.

Kindergarten Referral: A Coach has been assigned to this student, working collaboratively with the teacher to improve excessive and extreme behaviors. The behaviors observed were visible within the classroom setting, including shutting down, refusal, shouting, and temper tantrums. The Coach has implemented a Premack principle “first/then” intervention to improve desired behaviors based on preferred items.

First Grade Referral: A Coach has been assigned to this student due to highly defiant and avoidant behaviors. The Coach is collaborating with the teacher to ensure a plan that includes a Token Economy Board.

Whittier:

Kindergarten Referral: The Teacher requested ongoing support for a Coach within the class. The assigned Coach has completed their interventions within the classroom and student. All intervention

implementation was provided to the teacher to continue monitoring the student's progress.

New Kindergarten Referral: Coordinator will begin conducting observations the week of 4/28-5/2.

Riley Intermediate:

Fourth Grade Referral: A Coach has been assigned to the student due to highly inappropriate and excessive outbursts. The Coach is working with the teacher to implement a reward system to improve behaviors. The Special Ed Coordinator has now requested a full day of support to provide daily support.

District 92 - Lindop School

Pre-K Referral: The Coach has transitioned out of the classroom due to an increase in desired behaviors among the students. The Coach still provides weekly support when needed.

Kindergarten Referral 2: A Coach continues to work with an assigned student who has exhibited an increase in social/emotional behaviors, which has caused an extreme disruption within the class environment.

District 88 - Lincoln Primary | Grant Primary | Grant Elementary | Lincoln Elementary | McKinley Elementary | Thurgood Marshall Elementary | Roosevelt Middle School

Lincoln Elementary:

First Grade Referral: The Coach continues implementing interventions such as mild consequences (stop and think chair), verbal praise, token economy (Lincoln bucks/prizes) and antecedent modifications (rearranging desks). It is reported that the student's behavior has improved. Due to the teacher's request for ongoing support, the Coach remains in the class to assist with minimal behavioral disruptions.

3rd Grade Referral: A Coach was assigned to conduct a full class and individual student intervention. The Coach is working directly with the teacher to provide refreshers on classroom management and incorporating a full class reward system.

McKinley Elementary:

1 Second Grade Referral: The assigned Coach continues working in tandem with the teacher and classroom aide to provide classroom management techniques. This is due to an increase in desired behavior from the individual student referral.

5th Grade Referral: The 5th grade student has been assigned to a Coach to assist him directly with managing emotions, impulse control, and maintaining appropriate relationships with peers.

Thurgood Marshall Elementary:

Kindergarten Referral: The assigned student has been transferred to PAEC Elementary. The Coach has begun working with another student within the classroom due to extremely disruptive behaviors.

Roosevelt Middle School:

(2) Seventh Grade Referrals: A Coach has been assigned to both students within the classroom to enhance work performance, impulse control, disrespect, and peer relationships. The Coach collaborates with the math teacher to implement reward systems.

District 93 - Hillside Elementary

3 Third Grade Classroom Referrals: With the assistance of a Coach, the Coordinator has been working collaboratively with one 3rd grade class to reduce extremely disruptive behavior by implementing a weekly class incentive system and maintaining antecedent modifications within the class setting. The Coordinator will be transitioning to the second class after spring break.

Kindergarten Classroom Referral: The Coordinator has successfully transitioned out of the classroom. All necessary personnel have been provided with a Behavior Maintenance Plan equipped with the intervention strategies that were implemented for the individual student.

continues actively supporting within the class to improve the academic environment by providing the teacher with evidence-based interventions to decrease extremely disruptive behaviors among one individual student. The Coordinator, teacher and PA have developed and implemented a Premack principle system based on the students' desire for breaks.

District 209 - Proviso East High School | Proviso West High School | Proviso Mathematics and Science Academy

There are currently a total of 6 Behavior Interventionists assigned to 209; 3 are assigned to East and 3 are assigned to West. Interventionists are now assigned to Deans, who work directly under Grade Level Principals.

Proviso West duties consist of assisting with lunchroom monitoring based on procedures to reduce student physical and verbal altercations among one another. The Interventionist also supports within the halls and Reset Rooms to pass out late passes and intervene with students to limit tardiness and truancy.

PAEC OT/PT Department

Activities of the department:

1. The AT Team continues to conduct SETT meetings to develop appropriate assistive technology to address the educational needs of their struggling students. Will be wrapping up meetings for this school year.
2. The Lead OT/PT/AT attended the Prom Committee Meeting of our Special Events via Google Meet on 4-17-25 and 4-24-25 from 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM.
3. The AT Team attended a staff meeting on 4-09-25 in-person and via Zoom from 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM.
4. The OT/PT department conducted their monthly meeting via Zoom on 4-17-25 from 11:30 to 2:00 PM.
5. Our OT/PT/AT Lead attended a Workman's Compensation/Safety meeting on 4-18-25 from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM at PAEC Center.
6. On 4-09-25, the OT/PT/AT Lead met with the new OT servicing Jefferson School for orientation all day at PAEC Center.
7. Our OT/PT/AT Lead attended an OT/PT Coordinators meeting via Zoom on 4-17-25 from 10:00

am-12:00 pm.

8. The OT/PT/AT Lead has been collecting information from the departments to provide ESY coverage, as programs know their needs.
9. The OT/PT/AT Lead has been working on collecting caseload/workload information from the OTs and PTs in preparation for the next school year. ESY interest forms have been received, and the lead OT/PT/AT will make ESY assignments as soon as information is available from programs regarding their enrollment.
10. The OT/PT/AT Lead is working on projected expenses for the upcoming school year.
11. The OT/PT/AT Lead is working to determine OT, PT, and AT coverage for the upcoming school year and will begin working on any openings as soon as possible.
12. There were no Clinics this month for Wheelchairs and Orthotics.
13. The PTs are helping cover PT services where needed in helping Esther Littman to transition back to full-time status.
14. The OT/PT/AT Lead met with a representative from Magic School about their AI program for staff and students on 4-25-25 from 8:15 AM to 8:45 AM.
15. April is OT month. OTs put together an activity and an informational flyer. Please view our information below:

[OT Month Flyer](#)

[OT Month Activity](#)

Pieces of equipment that were ordered in the last month were the Joycat ABC fishing game, Sand Timers, and Slant Boards for writing. See the pictures below.



PAEC Psychology Department

Ms. Annamaria Iarrapino, PAEC school psychologist intern, presented a poster on her internship experience with PAEC at The Chicago School's yearly Student Research Symposium. Ms. Iarrapino will be graduating in June and is very excited to continue working at PAEC as a full-time school psychologist in District 87 at Riley Intermediate and Northlake Middle Schools.

Ms. Alexia Flores and Ms. Annette Garcia, school psychology practicum students, distributed a survey to District 87 staff at MacArthur gauging their knowledge of Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavioral Intervention Plans. They presented their survey results as a poster at The Chicago School. They will be sharing their results and recommendations with District 87 administration and special education staff to help improve the FBA and BIP process. Both Ms. Garcia and Ms. Flores will continue to work on this project next year as intern and advanced practicum students, respectively.

Dr. Michael Cermak, lead school psychologist, completed his internship to receive his Type 75/administrative endorsement. He will graduate from Concordia in May. He continues to work with several students in District 87 in conjunction with his graduate students on SEL skills in individual and small groups. He is also providing consultative services to Districts 209 and 93 for several students.

Ms. Dayle Ashley-Harding, PAEC Early Childhood Psychologist, attended the District 93 Child Find Preschool Screening on April 25th, 2025. Ms. Ashley-Harding assisted the team in screening preschool-aged children to help determine the need for services and placement.

PAEC Social Work Department

1. PAEC School Social Workers who have agreed to work the extended school year are as follows:
 - *Mr. Patrick Rossi, LCSW – PAEC Elementary/E.C.
 - *Ms. Temika Peace, MSW – PAEC Center School
 - *Ms. Tanaijah Fields, MSW – PAEC High School Therapeutic Day School
 - *Ms. Nicole Pena, MSW – PAEC Academy
2. Ms. Nicole Pena, MSW (PAEC School Social Worker-PAEC Academy) has facilitated small/whole classroom groups and individual sessions and has focused on the following topics: Earth Day Celebrations, Friendships, Understanding Things In and Out of Your Control. Ms. Pena has been facilitating lunch groups with students, as well as student groups with other related service personnel (i.e., SLP and OT). Additionally, Ms. Pena attended and arranged student/parent tours to Proviso East and Proviso West High Schools; attended and assisted with a field trip to the Cernan Earth & Space Center, and distributed incentives for student perfect attendance awards for the month of March, alongside Ms. Schmitt.
3. Ms. Monette Carlos-Barnes, LCSW (PAEC School Worker-PAEC E.C. Program) has been working with the children in her social skills group on the following topics: Labeling Emotions and Learning to Follow Directions. Additionally, on April 11, 2025, Ms. Carlos facilitated a Parent Meeting on Toilet Training. Parent Training Part 2 is scheduled for May 9, 2025.
4. Mr. Patrick Rossi, LCSW, Ms. and Niane Serrano, MSW (PAEC School Social Workers) continue to provide individual/small group social work sessions to the PAEC Elementary Students, incorporating accepting No from others; self-awareness of voice level; learning how to identify big feelings and

ways to calm those feelings; learning the difference between bullying and joking around; dealing with angry feelings; the difference between tattling and telling; social media & digital safety and transitioning from 8th grade to high school during social skills groups.

5. Ms. Lisa Pirrello, LCSW, Ms. Donna Kuchera, MSW. , Ms. Kelsey Thomas, MSW, Ms. Ali Kagan, MSW and Ms. Tanajah Fields (PAEC School Social Workers-PAEC High School Therapeutic Day School and School Social Work Intern) continue to provide social work services to the students on their caseload and have been working with the students on the following: emotional regulation; drug/alcohol use/abuse; accountability for behaviors/actions; conflict resolution, and preparing for life after high school graduation, Effective Communication; Building Relationships; Learning to be Respectful and Earn Respect; Learning to Listen When Others Speak; Emotional Regulation Skill Building; Executive Functioning and Learning Gratitude. Social Workers continually contact parents to address care coordination and to provide additional resource information for parents to consider regarding outside mental health needs, drug/alcohol use/abuse, food, and housing needs. Ms. Pirrello assisted with the Therapy Dog visit that occurred on April 25, 2025.
6. Ms. Dianna Stephens, LCSW, and Ms. Temika Peace, MSW (PAEC School Social Workers-Proviso East High School) continue to provide social work services to the students on their caseload and continue to develop strategies to increase student attendance and promote more student engagement in after-school programs available through PLCCA that would benefit the students socially, emotionally, and academically. Ms. Stephens continues to provide drop-in support for various Spanish-speaking general education students in need when the Proviso East school social workers are not available. Ms. Peace and Ms. Stephens continue to meet with their grade level teams weekly to discuss specific students who may be struggling academically, have poor attendance, and are behaviorally challenging.
7. Ms. Kristine Campbell, MSW, and Ms. Glenda Liboy, MSW (PAEC School Social Worker-Proviso West High School) continue to provide social work services to the students on their caseload and have been addressing communication skills, conversational exchanges, interviewing skills, body language, social cues, tone/volume, and coping strategies. Periodically, both social workers provide drop-in social work services and support for various general education students in need, when the Proviso West school social workers are not available, and have been completing student annual reviews, initial,s and re-evaluations.
8. Ms. Anna Landmeier, LCSW, Ms. Ali Kagan, MSW, and Ms. Jill Collins, MSW (PAEC School Social Workers-PAEC Center School) continue to provide social work services to the students on their caseloads. Topics the social workers have been covering during their classroom social work groups include: Personal Strengths and Weaknesses; Disability Awareness; Mindfulness; Learning to Advocate for Self; Identifying Feelings; Relationship Skill Building; Needs vs. Wants; Decision Making Skills; Social Skills Modeling; Grounding Strategies; Visually Modeling Facial Expressions and Coping Skills Modeling. Additionally, Ms. Collins, Ms. Landmeier, and Ms. Kagan are active participants of the PAEC Center School Special Events Committee in assisting with the planning of Prom, Graduation, April/May school-wide events, and student field trips. The social workers continue to provide resources to parents/staff regarding day programs, guardianship application process, vocational support, therapy support, staff support/mentoring, and safety protocols.

9. Ms. Kenya Dockens, LCSW (PAEC School Social Worker-Hillside School), continues to provide individual/small group social work sessions to the students at Hillside School. The 3rd grade group continues to focus on understanding emotions. The 6th grade group continues to work on recognizing emotional triggers, and the 8th Grade group continues to focus on studying skills. The 8th grade self-esteem group has been working on Peer Mentoring using self-esteem-building tools. Ms. Dockens attended the Hillside Safety Committee Meeting on April 21, 2025. Additionally, Ms. Dockens coordinated with the Women's Group of the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church, whose classroom initiative provided a Care Closet (a storage closet, hygiene products, clothing accessories, and snacks) for Hillside students in need.

10. Ms. Lisa Pirrello, LCSW, (PAEC Lead School Social Worker) has coordinated scheduling the K9 Therapy/Comfort Dog visits for the PAEC High School Therapeutic Day School, PAEC Elementary School, and the PAEC Early Childhood Programs for the 2025-2026 school year. Pre-arranged dates for the 2025-2026 school year K9/Therapy Dog Visits are as follows: October 17, 2025; November 7, 2025; January 23, 2026; February 21, 2026; April 10, 2026 and May 15, 2026. Permission Slips will be sent out to families prior to K-9 Therapy/Comfort Dog visits. Ms. Pirrello continues to interview school social work candidates for potential hire for the 2025-26 school year.

11. The PAEC Social Work Department In-Services schedule for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year is as follows:
 - Date: Friday, September 12, 2025
 - Time: 10:00 am-1:00 pm
 - Topic: Illinois Law/Ethics for School Social Workers
 - Speaker: PAEC Attorney
 - Time: 2:00 pm-3:00 pm
 - Event: PAEC SW Dept. Meeting (Ms. Lisa Pirrello, LCSW)

 - Date: Friday, October 10, 2025
 - Time: 10:00 am-1:00 pm
 - Topic: Domestic Violence & It's Affect on Children/Teens 101; Safety Planning & Prevention of Dating Violence
 - Speaker: Ms. Julia Foos of Sarah's Inn

 - Date: Friday, November 14, 2025
 - Time: 10:00 am-1:00 pm
 - Topic: Moral Injury in Social Work and Behavioral Health
 - Speaker: Mr. Frederic G. Reamer, Ph.D.-School of Social Work, Rhode Island College

 - Date: Friday, January 16, 2026
 - Time: 11:00 am-1:00 pm
 - Topic: Understanding Student Speech & Language Skills
 - Speaker: Danielle Lemon-POP Pediatric Therapy
 - Time: 2:00 pm-3:00 pm
 - Event: PAEC SW Dept. Meeting (Ms. Lisa Pirrello, LCSW)

 - Date: Friday, February 13, 2026
 - Time: 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Topic: Empathy Training Toward Difficult Students & Their Parents (Across the Life Span)
Speaker: Ms. Sharon Bryant-Flourishing Families

Date: Friday, April 24, 2026

Time: 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Topic: Crisis Prevention & Response: Understanding the SASS Protocol

Speaker: Ms. Laura Cruz, LCSW-Leyden Family Services

Time: 2:00 pm-3:00 pm

Event: PAEC SW Dept. Meeting (Ms. Lisa Pirrello, LCSW)

PAEC Speech/Language Department

- The Speech/Language Department had a meeting on Thursday, April 24th, from 11:30-12:30 in the boardroom.
- The Lead SLP is working with the SLPs to collect caseload/workload information to use in making assignments for the upcoming school year.
- The Lead SLP is working on gathering information on student enrollment to make assignments for ESY.
- SLP assigned to D209 is on leave for the remainder of the year. The Lead SLP is working on securing candidates to cover the short-term vacancy.

PAEC Special Olympics

In April, both the junior (Tigers) and High School (Blazers) teams participated in a tournament for the local area teams. Our Tigers won one game and lost another. Our High school team played hard, however lost both of their games. Both teams travelled to Cove School for games. Both our junior and High School teams played well and came home with the win. Our next scheduled game is 4/29 vs. Oswego. Both our Junior and High School will travel to play them. The Academy team will be holding a car wash fundraiser on 5/2 from 9:30 to 1 pm. All proceeds will go to the soccer team. Our last game will be the state qualifying tournament on 5/18/2025 at Hinsdale South High School. This will be the tournament to determine if the Tigers or Blazers go to the State Tournament in June at ISU. Our individual skills participants will also compete at that time to determine if they will go to States.