Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the criteria for being Highly Qualified?
By July 2010 all instructional paraprofessionals must be HQ via one of the following:
* Completion of at least 2 years of postsecondary study, or
* Possession of an associate’s degree or higher, or
* Meet a rigorous standard of quality as demonstrated through a state or local assessment (Paraeducator Credential of Competency, or PSEA ESP Portfolio)

If I am not currently HQ, where is training being provided?
PDE, PATTAN and the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 all offer Paraeducator training to become HQ. Pennsbury is offering the training through the IU beginning Sept 18, 2008. Other sessions will be offered to help people become HQ.

What documentation do I need to submit for HQ?
For HQ documentation, submit a copy of your degree, transcript or certificate from PDE (Paraeducator Credential of Competency) or PSEA (ESP Portfolio) to the Special Education Department.

When do I need to complete 20 hours of staff development?
Beginning July 1, 2008 all Paras, regardless of HQ status, need to complete 20 hours of staff development/year. Hours towards becoming HQ count toward the 20 hours/year.

Where do I get the training:
PDE, PATTAN, Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 and Pennsbury will continue to offer training opportunities. We will make you aware of those as we become aware of them.

Do other workshops or training events count toward the 20 hours/year?
Yes, anything other than the above must be submitted on the Pre-Approval Form.

What documentation is required for the 20 hours/year?
For in-district workshops, the district has your attendance sheets, and your workshop time is recorded on mylearningplan.com. For out of district (PDE, PATTAN, Bucks County IU #22 or other pre-approved workshop) you need to submit a copy of your attendance form or other certificate as soon as possible after the workshop in order to be recorded on mylearningplan.com.