









# ***A Shift in Mindsets to Support Independence For Students with 1:1 Paraeducators in General Education***

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| Person                                                                                                               | Old Mindset                                                                                                                                        | New Mindset                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br>General Education<br>Teacher    | The paraeducator is here to manage the student. The student's success will be measured by what they are able to do with their paraeducator's help. | The paraeducator is here to support the student in accessing my instruction. The student's success will be measured by what they are able to accomplish with minimal help.                                                                                                      |
| <br>Paraeducator                    | My role is to do things for the teacher and make sure my student does not disrupt learning. I am the student's primary instructor.                 | My role is to connect the student with the rest of the classroom and with their primary instructor, the teacher.                                                                                                                                                                |
| <br>Student                        | The paraeducator is mine. I go to them for help or to strike up a conversation. They are my friend. They must follow me wherever I go.             | The paraeducator is a helper in the classroom. I go to my peers for conversation and to my teacher for help, though the paraeducator might assist the teacher in helping me.                                                                                                    |
| <br>Less Familiar Teacher         | The paraeducator will lead me in teaching the student. They will tell me if I need to do something specific for the student.                       | I will lead in teaching the student, and the paraeducator will help me with the follow through.                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <br>Other Students                | I shouldn't bug the paraeducator or their student. They want to be left alone.                                                                     | I can ask the paraeducator for help if they are free and I can talk to their student if it is appropriate.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <br>Case Manager/Sp Ed<br>Teacher | Since the student has a paraeducator I do not need to worry about their program because someone else is overseeing it.                             | I should have ongoing collaboration with other building staff, including the paraeducator and therapists when applicable, on how we can help this student be more independent. The result of this collaboration needs to be shared with all educators who support this student. |
| <br>Parent/Guardian               | The paraeducator is in charge of making sure my student gets their work done. I am concerned if I feel the paraeducator is not doing enough.       | The paraeducator helps my student have access to the general education curriculum and progress in their IEP goals with minimal help. I am concerned if I feel they are doing too much.                                                                                          |
| <br>Administrator                 | School staff can focus on promoting independence for students with 1:1 paraeducators, regardless of how difficult their caseload/situation is.     | School staff can focus on promoting independence to the degree that they have capacity and have support from administration.                                                                                                                                                    |