



CODESP

INSTRUCTIONAL AIDE ASSESSMENT

CODESP SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONAL AIDE TEST DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

CODESP has provided classified employment selection materials, including Instructional Aide test materials to school districts in California and Nevada, since 1973. When the NCLB Act was enacted in January 2002, CODESP responded by updating existing test materials so that they would meet the “rigorous” requirement described in the Act. The Act requires local education agencies (LEAs) to ensure that paraprofessionals employed in programs supported with Title I, Part A funds have met educational qualifications or “a rigorous standard of quality and can demonstrate, through a formal state or local academic assessment-knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing reading, writing, and mathematics (or readiness in those subject areas).” The California Department of Education (CDE) has stated that they will not develop or select one statewide assessment because the State Board of Education decided that the selection or development of an assessment is to be determined locally and it would not be appropriate for the CDE to do so.

Early in the test development process, CODESP was asked to assist in a consortium made up of school district Title I and Curriculum Specialists, IO Psychologists, HR Professionals and CSEA union representatives from Los Angeles, San Diego and Orange counties. Several meetings took place to discuss interpretation of the NCLB Act’s IA assessment requirements.

Test questions were chosen and developed by reviewing current California high school graduation standards, the California High School Exit Exam, the GED, CBEST, community college placement exams, and other related standardized tests currently administered in California. Recommendations from subject matter experts, including those involved in the NCLB consortium, were also considered in this process.

An existing extensive job study for the position of Instructional Aide was also reviewed. During the review process, the role of the Instructional Aide in the classroom was examined closely. This information was especially helpful in the development of the Ability to Assist test questions. The job study included a validation survey of 400 paraeducators, teachers, principals, state and local education personnel, college faculty, parents, and others, by the National Resource Center for Paraprofessionals in Education and Related Services. The study, *Strengthening and Supporting Teacher/Provider-Paraeducator Teams: Guidelines for Paraeducator Roles, Supervision, and Preparation*, was authored by Anna Lou Pickett in 1999.

TUTORIAL

A tutorial was developed to assist current and potential Instructional Aides in studying for the examination. This 38 page document provides step-by-step instructions on how to prepare for the examination by providing samples of each type of question included on the CODESP test. Application and study tips are also provided in the tutorial which members can download from the Resources area of www.codesp.com. Power Point presentation tutorials are also available.