



So You Want To Be A  
COTOP Trainer?

What's in it for you?  
Trainer's Talk Back



**Question:** Can being a COTOP trainer make you a better supervisor of paraeducators?

**Answer:** Absolutely - Here's why:

- **COTOP Trainers find:**
- They are more thoughtful
- They are more supportive of their staff and their needs
- They find deeper insight is shared in the COTOP classes than in the classroom each day. The paraeducators have more time to evaluate and share their opinions and thoughts.
- They have better follow through in the classroom.
- They have better knowledge of the people they work with
- Improved teamwork
- The paraeducators are more aware of the evaluation process - making it easier and less intimidating for the teacher and them
- An increased sense of professionalism all around.



**Question:** What are the personal benefits of becoming a COTOP Trainer?

**Answer:** Many, many, many. Here are just a few:

- **COTOP Trainers find that:**
- They are working with a very motivated group of learners
- They have willing and eager students
- Teamwork increases in classroom settings
- Students have an interest in you and your experiences
- They become learners as well
- Teaching academies keep them humble
- They make a difference when they reach out to others
- They keep their teaching skills sharp
- The students often bring new techniques and ideas that you can use
- They receive a great deal of personal satisfaction and enjoyment.



**Question:** Does being a COTOP Trainer have professional benefits?

**Answer:** You bet! Check this out:



• **COTOP Trainers say this:**

- "There is nothing more gratifying than to be able to convey the information in a positive and effective way."
- "I think that the main reason that I do this extra work is that I want students to have greater opportunity to be successful. There are so many students, regular ed or special ed, who are currently not experiencing success in school. Individual or small group instruction by paraeducators seems to be a solution that the schools are using. The men and women who are paraeducators in our schools are well intentioned adults but are not trained to educate. This is one of the only opportunities that many of them have to gain skills to use with students."



## COTOP Trainers say:



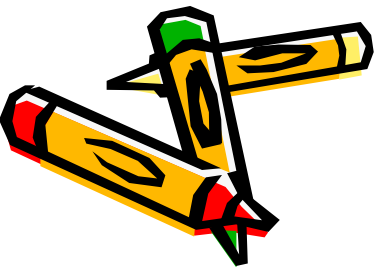
- "The academies are the missing link to help these individuals grasp an understanding of the direction we are trying to go in public education. Our hope is that they will continue on into the field of teaching."
- "For me, there are many reasons for teaching the academies. I initially got involved because I enjoy teaching. It sounded like a great experience to be able to teach the people that we supervise in a non-threatening situation. After teaching the academies, I still find that to be the case. I have also benefited from learning how the paraprofessionals feel about a lot of those items that we discuss in the classes. They offer a unique perspective to me and I impart a different one to them."
- "For some, this is the first formal training that they have received. They are always willing learners and the academy setting allows them to learn and be valued at the same time."



## COTOP Trainers say:



- "I am very passionate about teaching and wouldn't think of doing anything else. I am on fire most of the time to share what I know or have learned. This gives me an outlet for that."
- "Teaching CO-TOP academies has been one of the most rewarding and fulfilling endeavors I have been involved in. Those of us who love to teach, love to impart our enthusiasm and knowledge to other educators. We are the ones who truly see the value of the paraeducators."



# What are you waiting for?

Join us at the COTOP Project!

Share your knowledge,  
Share your passion,  
Share your dreams!

