



**EDUCATORS
RISING**
There's power in teaching

A Division of PDK
PDK
INTERNATIONAL

General Competition Information

All students wishing to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference must complete 3 required steps:

- 1 Be a paid member of Educators Rising with an active profile in the EdRising Virtual Campus.
- 2 Sign up to compete at the national conference and submit any required materials by the deadline. **This is not done automatically if you competed at a state or regional conference.** You must do this on the Educators Rising national website per the instructions and links in the Get Active section of the EdRising Virtual Campus for competitions.
- 3 Register to attend the Educators Rising National Conference.

- All individual competitions are open to Educators Rising members in middle school and high school. (Students may or may not be affiliated with an Educators Rising school program.) All team competitions are open to Educators Rising programs in middle school and high school. *Please note: middle school will compete with high school. They will not have their own division.* Two competitions are open to college-level students. They will compete in their own division.
- **All competitors must attend the Educators Rising National Conference** on June 22-25, 2019 in Dallas, TX. Competitions will take place on-site at the Educators Rising National Conference on Saturday, June 22 through Monday, June 24, 2019.
- If a competitor is from a state that holds state competitions, they must first qualify in a given event at their state conference before competing in that event at the Educators Rising National Conference. Contact your state/regional coordinator to see if your state offers competitions. Visit bit.ly/EdRisingAffiliates to contact your state/regional coordinator.
- **In order to be scheduled to compete in a national competition, all competitor applications, national dues and required materials must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time), April 22, 2019.** Each competition will identify what materials are required for submission prior to the competition. Failure to submit required materials by the submission deadline will result in disqualification. **Students who have won state-level competitions also must submit their entries on the national website by the deadline to compete at the national conference. Your state does not do this for you.**
- For states that offer state-level competitions, the top five places in each competition offered by the state will be eligible to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference; no other entrants from states that offer the competition at the state level will be eligible for those state-level-offered competitions.

General Competition Information Cont.

For states that do not offer state-level competitions, students may register to compete in those events at the Educators Rising National Conference. (For example, if you want to compete in Impromptu Speaking but place sixth or lower in your state-level Impromptu Speaking competition or don't compete in the state level competitions at all — you unfortunately can't compete in Impromptu Speaking at the Educators Rising National Conference this year. If you live in a state that didn't hold an Impromptu Speaking state-level competition, you may register to compete in that event at the Educators Rising National Conference.) This applies to all Educators Rising national competitions.

- For entries in national competitions, competitors must submit or bring to the event all required materials described in the national competition guidelines. Any material or forms submitted at previous presentations (ex. state competitions) need to be resubmitted for the national competition in order to count in national competitions.
- All video files that are submitted in advance must be in .mp4 format. Videos that are not in this file format will not be accepted and will be immediately disqualified. Videos will not be accepted by mail. The maximum file size for any video submitted in advance is 2 GB. **All competitors should also bring a copy of the video file on a USB drive to the conference.** Educators Rising competitions comply with FERPA in regard to student privacy and video security. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their competition videos comply with local and state requirements regarding student privacy.
- Except when explicitly specified, the Internet may not be used during a competition presentation at the Educators Rising National Conference. All relevant files and resources should be brought to the competition site on a USB drive. All Prezi files should be download to the USB drive. Internet access may not be available during the competition. Students should bring their own pointing device, if needed.
- Students may enter up to a total of two combined events.
- Teacher leaders may enter up to two students per school in each individual event and one team for team events. **All team events must have at least two students (and no more than four) per school to qualify.**
- Competitors must report to their assigned areas on time. Failure to report at their scheduled time can result in disqualification. Competition schedules will be posted in the Virtual Campus prior to the conference. Be sure to check these schedules prior to your arrival.
- Spectators may not coach or offer any verbal or nonverbal assistance to a contestant during that contestant's assigned time slot with the judges. A breach of this guideline may result in disqualification of the contestant.
- Spectators may not record any competition without prior consent of the competitors and judges.
- Competitors are expected to dress in business-casual attire. **(For a detailed explanation of what is and is not permissible as "business casual," see here: humanresources.about.com/od/workrelationships/a/dress_code.htm.)** Points will be deducted from the entrant's score for failure to follow the stated dress code.

General Competition Information Cont.

- Certificates will be awarded to the top 10 entries. Awards will be presented to the top three entries in each category.
 - Entrants grant Phi Delta Kappa International, the sponsoring organization for Educators Rising, the right to use and publish the submission in print, online, or in any media without compensation.
 - Entrants grant Phi Delta Kappa International, the sponsoring organization for Educators Rising, the right to post photos of students for promotional purposes on the Educators Rising website and EdRising Virtual Campus.
 - All source media used for the competition must be cited in competition submissions.
 - All submitted materials must reflect original work from the 2018-2019 school year.
- Material that may have been created or submitted in previous years is ineligible.
 - Competitors are strongly discouraged from using copyrighted material in their competitive entries. If copyrighted material is used, written permissions must be obtained for the rights to display and present media-related materials at the Educators Rising National Conference and to post media-related materials on the Educators Rising website. All permissions obtained to use copyrighted material must be included with entry submission. (Note: This requirement applies to music used in videos, graphics taken from the web, and other media-related materials. It does not apply to artifacts collected for a project.)



Entries will be submitted through the [EdRising Virtual Campus \(educatorsrising.org/virtualcampus\)](https://educatorsrising.org/virtualcampus) in the Get Active section.

Have any questions? Call 800-766-1156 or email info@educatorsrising.org.

CHECKLIST FOR APPLYING FOR EDUCATORS RISING NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Ready to compete at Nationals?

Here is a checklist to help you get prepared, registered, and on the official schedule for Dallas!

SUBMISSIONS OPEN: FEBRUARY 1, 2019 8:00 A.M. EASTERN TIME
DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR ON-SITE SCHEDULING: APRIL 22, 2019 5:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- Review the full national competition guidelines and rubric.** Check the Get Active Section in the EdRising Virtual Campus. Some processes may be different from your state/regional conference.
- Log in to the EdRising Virtual Campus, go to the Get Active section, and click on the Competitions tab.** Select the competition you are interested in from list. Read the guidelines and rubrics and then click Apply, which will take you to the national competition online platform on Wizehive.
- Create an account for the national competition online platform on Wizehive.** Follow the link from the competition pages in the Get Active section of the EdRising Virtual Campus to do this. Your EdRising Virtual Campus login will not automatically work on Wizehive.
- Complete the online application, upload any required documents/ videos, and submit.** Depending on your competition, some of these items are judged **before** the conference so make sure they are in their final form. Recommendation: Have someone proofread your documents prior to submitting them. Many points have been lost in past years by competitors who had many spelling, grammar, and mechanics errors in their work.

*You must complete and submit the online application by the April 22 deadline to be scheduled to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference. Participating at a state or regional conference **does not** provide a pass on completing this process.*

- Print and save your confirmation email.** You will need this information when you register for the conference.
- Register to attend the Educators Rising National Conference,** which will take place June 22-25 in Dallas, TX. All national conference information, including how to register, can be found in the Get Active section of the EdRising Virtual Campus.
- Find out when you are scheduled to compete on-site.** Competition schedules will be posted in the EdRising Virtual Campus on May 21, 2019. After this date, you can log in and go to the Get Active section to find the posted schedules.
- Practice, practice, practice!** The best way to prepare for your on-site competition is to practice in front of your peers. Recommendation: Reread the National Competition Guidelines and Rubric for your competition.
- See you in Dallas!** The top 10 for each competition will be announced at the National Conference Awards Celebration on June 25, 2019 in Dallas, TX. Don't miss your chance to be recognized! Be sure that when you plan your transportation for the conference that you can attend this final celebration.

2019 JOB INTERVIEW COMPETITION

COMPETITION TYPE: Individual — Closed to spectators

ELIGIBILITY: Educators Rising High School Students

EDUCATORS RISING STANDARDS:

- Standard I: Understanding the Profession
- Standard IV: Engaging in Responsive Planning
- Standard VII: Engaging in Reflective Practice

Contest Purpose

The Job Interview Competition is an opportunity for Educators Rising members to develop and practice their interview skills, as well as cover letter and résumé writing skills. In this competition, entrants apply for a position as a paraprofessional (a link to position description can be found below). This includes submitting a cover letter explaining why the entrant is a good candidate for the position, as well as a résumé that details relevant work, volunteer, and educational experiences.

Judges will review the cover letters and résumés and — just like any job application/interview process — candidates will be interviewed for a paraprofessional position. Interviews will take place on-site at the Educators Rising National Conference. The judges will act as the school district's hiring committee and will ask questions of the job candidates one at a time. The candidate who submits the strongest cover letter and résumé and performs the best in the interview will be honored as the winner at the Educators Rising National Conference. Since high school graduates are eligible to be employed as paraprofessionals in many districts, this competition offers an immediate opportunity for a real-world application of the work entailed in participation.

Competition Guidelines

- Entrants will apply for the following teaching assistant position: **Paraprofessional** (see **job description** included in this PDF.)
 - The cover letter must follow a standard cover letter format; review the information on this link (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/723/03/>) to see expectations for formatting and content of a successful cover letter. Note: You do not need to already possess a high school diploma to participate in this competition, but be sure to indicate in your materials when you expect to receive the diploma.
 - The cover letter must be typed and in English. It should not exceed one page.
 - The cover letter should complement, not duplicate, the entrant's résumé. The cover letter should explain the reasons for the entrant's interest in the position and school and identify his or her most relevant skills or experiences. The letter should express a high level of interest and knowledge about the position.
 - The résumé may follow a standard résumé format; review the information on this link (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/719/1/>) to see expectations for formatting and content of a standard résumé. However, students may use alternative

2019 JOB INTERVIEW COMPETITION

résumé formats if they feel that will put them in the best possible position to obtain the job they are seeking. (Always remember your audience!)

- F.** The résumé should be typed and in English. It should not exceed two pages.
- G.** The résumé should include at least two references.
- H.** All information in the cover letter and résumé must be truthful.

- I.** The interview will last for approximately 15 minutes. All contestants will be asked similar interview questions by a panel of judges acting as the district's hiring committee.

Judging and scoring

- A.** The judges' decisions are final.
- B.** Scoring is based on the Job Interview Competition rubric.

2019 JOB INTERVIEW COMPETITION

POSITION: Paraprofessional

Application Deadline: April 21, 2019

Starting Date: Aug. 1, 2019

JOB DESCRIPTION

Title: Paraprofessional

Qualifications:

1. Have a high school diploma or equivalent at start of employment. (Note: You do not need to already possess a high school diploma to participate in this competition, but be sure to indicate in your materials when you expect to receive the diploma.)
2. Proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking the English language.
3. Have authorization to work in the USA.
4. Have a clear record of service from prior employers, if any.

Smithfield Independent School District is seeking paraprofessionals for the coming school year. Paraprofessionals are teaching assistants who provide instructional services to students under the general supervision of a certified teacher. In New York City, most paraprofessionals work in special education and early childhood education settings. Full-time paraprofessionals receive a generous benefits package (healthcare, paid leave, pension, etc.) and may avail themselves to opportunities such as tuition assistance and paid release time for college study. According to glassdoor.com, the national average salary in 2017 for full-time paraprofessional educators is \$30,792.

PERFORMANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

The role of the paraprofessional is to assist teachers with class work and/or assist with the daily care of students with emotional, cognitive, physical handicaps, autism, and other special needs. Their responsibilities may include, but are not limited to, the following tasks:

1. One-on-one or small group instruction as outlined by the teacher
2. Reinforcing behavior through the use of positive behavior support
3. Teaching daily living skills such as independent feeding, dressing, toileting
4. Aiding occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech teachers and adaptive physical education providers during instruction
5. Guiding and assisting students in small group instruction settings with class routines and in transitioning from one activity to the next
6. Teaching students, under direction of teacher in the following areas: recreation, motor, vocational, socialization and communication utilizing the workshop model in Literacy and Mathematics
7. Assisting students with ambulation within the school premises and on class trips
8. Collecting data documenting student behavior for instructional purposes
9. Writing anecdotal information concerning student behavior
10. Providing language assistance for bilingual students

Position Type: Part-time or Full Time

Positions Available: 10

**Some material in this document was edited and reproduced from <http://schools.nyc.gov/Careers/SubPara>.*

Please send application materials to:

Smithfield Independent School District
Attn: Melanie Jackson, Director of Human Resources
214 Arthur Avenue
Smithfield, USA 01776

2019 JOB INTERVIEW COMPETITION

SECONDARY LEVEL (HIGH SCHOOL)

Judges should use this rubric as a guide to assigning points on the Feedback & Tally Sheet.

Cover Letter & Résumé

Points Available	10–9 Accomplished	8–6 Commendable	5–3 Developing	2–1 Needs Improvement
Cover Letter Clarity	Reflects professional caliber of organization and clarity in expressing interest in the position and providing evidence for the contestant's qualifications.	Reflects commendable student-caliber organization and clarity in expressing interest in the position and providing evidence for the contestant's qualifications.	Reflects developing organization and clarity in expressing interest in the position and providing evidence for the contestant's qualifications.	Reflects need for a significant redesign/rewriting for organization and clarity.
Cover Letter Strength	Reflects outstanding, professional-caliber credentials and accomplishments to make an overwhelming case for the contestant's qualifications for the position. Expertly complements résumé without redundancy.	Reflects commendable credentials and accomplishments to make a commendable but not overwhelming case for the contestant's qualifications for the position. Succeeds mostly in complementing résumé with minimal redundancy.	Reflects developing credentials and accomplishments that indicate steps in a positive direction but do not yet make a sufficient case for the contestant's qualifications for the position. Reflects some redundancy with résumé which weakens impact.	Credentials and accomplishments need significant strengthening in order to make a sufficient case for the contestant's qualifications for the position. Does not complement cover letter or reflects excessive redundancy with résumé which weakens impact.
Cover Letter Mechanics	Reflects a professional-quality document. Contains no errors in mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation, formatting, capitalization).	Reflects a commendable, student-level document with 1 or 2 errors in mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation, formatting, capitalization).	Reflects a document in need of some proofreading and/or revision. Contains 3 or 4 errors in mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation, formatting, capitalization).	Reflects a document in need of a significant review. Contains more than 4 errors in mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation, formatting, capitalization).
Résumé Clarity	Reflects professional caliber of having all aspects organized and clearly understandable. All vital information is included and clearly marked.	Reflects commendable student-caliber of having all aspects organized and understandable. All vital information is included and marked.	Reflects inconsistent organization and clarity in the document. Some vital information is missing or not clearly marked.	Reflects need for a significant redesign/rewriting for organization and clarity. Irrelevant information may be present.

2019 JOB INTERVIEW COMPETITION

SECONDARY LEVEL (HIGH SCHOOL)

Points Available	10–9 Accomplished	8–6 Commendable	5–3 Developing	2–1 Needs Improvement
Résumé Strength	Reflects outstanding, professional-caliber credentials and accomplishments to make an overwhelming case for the contestant's qualifications for the position. Expertly complements cover letter without being redundant.	Reflects commendable credentials and accomplishments to make a commendable but not overwhelming case for the contestant's qualifications for the position. Succeeds mostly in complementing cover letter with minimal redundancy.	Reflects developing credentials and accomplishments that indicate steps in a positive direction but do not yet make a sufficient case for the contestant's qualifications for the position. Reflects some redundancy with cover letter which weakens impact.	Credentials and accomplishments need significant strengthening in order to make a sufficient case for the contestant's qualifications for the position. Does not complement cover letter or reflects excessive redundancy with cover letter which weakens impact.
Résumé Mechanics	Reflects a professional-quality document. Contains no errors in mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation, formatting, capitalization).	Reflects a commendable, student-level document with 1 or 2 errors in mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation, formatting, capitalization).	Reflects a document in need of some proofreading and/or revision. Contains 3 or 4 errors in mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation, formatting, capitalization).	Reflects a document in need of a significant review. Contains more than 4 errors in mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation, formatting, capitalization).

Interview

Points Available	15–13 Accomplished	12–9 Commendable	8–5 Developing	4–1 Needs Improvement
Understanding of Position	Demonstrates deep knowledge and understanding of the job position and its duties/requirements. Creates a very compelling case for why he/she is an excellent fit for the position.	Demonstrates commendable knowledge and understanding of the job position. Offers some reasons that create a decent but not compelling case for why he/she is a fit for the position.	Demonstrates some knowledge and understanding of the position. Creates a partial but ultimately not compelling case for why he/she is a fit for the position.	Demonstrates minimal knowledge and understanding of the position. Does not create a compelling case for why he/she is a fit for the position.

2019 JOB INTERVIEW COMPETITION

SECONDARY LEVEL (HIGH SCHOOL)

Points Available	15–13 Accomplished	12–9 Commendable	8–5 Developing	4–1 Needs Improvement
Depth of Responses	Provides consistently specific, logical, comprehensive, on-topic responses to judges' questions. Frequently cites expertly chosen examples or evidence to effectively support positions.	Provides mostly specific, logical, comprehensive, on- topic responses to judges' questions. Cites some on-topic examples or evidence to effectively support positions.	Provides mostly inconsistent or superficial responses to judges' questions. Responses may lack specificity, logic, or direct correlation to the heart of the question. Cited limited on- topic examples or evidence to effectively support positions.	Provides minimal depth, specificity, logic, or direct correlation to the heart of the questions. Cited minimal on- topic examples or evidence to effectively support positions.
Professional Demeanor	Reflects professional-caliber body language, dress, speech, sincerity, and confidence.	Reflects commendable student-caliber body language, dress, speech, sincerity, and confidence.	Reflects developing understanding of what is entailed in professional-caliber body language, dress, speech, sincerity, and confidence.	Reflects minimal understanding of what is entailed in professional-caliber body language, dress, speech, sincerity, and confidence.
Overall Impact Persuasiveness	Reflects a highly-qualified candidate who is well- prepared to excel in the position.	Reflects an employable candidate is prepared to try out his/her skills in the position.	Reflects a candidate not yet ready for the position but who is currently on the road to preparedness.	Reflects a candidate who needs significant skill-building and preparation before being ready to excel in the position.

Hired?

Points Available	30	0
Hired?	Based on the submitted material and interview, I would hire the contestant to be a paraprofessional educator in my own child's classroom.	Based on the submitted material and interview, I am not convinced the contestant is completely ready at this point to serve as a paraprofessional educator.



Feedback & Tally Sheet

2019 Job Interview Competition

SECONDARY LEVEL (HIGH SCHOOL)

Student Name: _____

Student's School, City, State: _____

- Judges will use the Detailed Scoring Rubric as their guide to score students' competition entries.
- Points and feedback will be emailed to the student competitors no later than two weeks after the conference.

PRE-SCORED COMPONENTS

Cover Letter & Résumé

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Cover Letter Clarity	10–9	8–6	5–3	2–1	
Cover Letter Strength	10–9	8–6	5–3	2–1	
Cover Letter Mechanics	10–9	8–6	5–3	2–1	
Résumé Clarity	10–9	8–6	5–3	2–1	
Résumé Strength	10–9	8–6	5–3	2–1	
Résumé Mechanics	10–9	8–6	5–3	2–1	

Cover Letter & Résumé Pre-score _____ / 60

COMPONENTS SCORED ON-SITE

Interview

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Understanding of Position	15–13	12–9	8–5	4–1	
Depth of Responses	15–13	12–9	8–5	4–1	
Professional Demeanor	15–13	12–9	8–5	4–1	
Overall Impact & Persuasiveness	15–13	12–9	8–5	4–1	

Continued



Feedback & Tally Sheet

2019 Job Interview Competition
SECONDARY LEVEL (HIGH SCHOOL)

Hired?

	Yes	No	Score
Hired?	30	0	

Interview On-site score _____ / 90

TOTAL SCORE _____ / 150

FEEDBACK FOR STUDENT: Write 2 or more sentences.