

Help Winslow Township Children

SUPPORT WINSLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT PARAPROFESSIONALS



The Winslow School District paraprofessionals (*Teacher Assistants, Non-Instructional Assistants, Bus Aides, and Before and After School Program Attendants*) work for a contractor named ESS Support Services.

The contractor pays the TAs and other support staff low wages and provides no benefits. ESS also keeps 26% of the money the school district pays for each contracted support staff member.

Before 2010, Winslow TAs and other paraprofessionals were direct Winslow School District employees. When we worked directly for the district, we had better wages, benefits, and pensions. The school district contracted us out to save money, and our wages and benefits were immediately slashed.

COMPARISON	Winslow School District Employees	Winslow ESS Contracted School District Employees
Health Insurance	Employer-paid, comprehensive	Completely employee paid, very little coverage
Pay	Clerical Assistant - \$25,103-\$43,766 annual	Teacher Assistant - \$16,560 annual*
Vacation	10 paid days	Unpaid
Holidays	14 paid days	Unpaid
Inclement Weather	Paid any time school is closed	Unpaid
Jury Leave	Paid	Unpaid
Sick Days	10 paid days	5 paid (Required by NJ law)
Bereavement Leave	5 paid days	Unpaid
Personal Days	3 paid days	Unpaid
Retirement	Pension	Unfunded 401K

*Teacher Assistant (TA) annual mean wages are \$29,180 nationally, \$29,150 in New Jersey, and \$27,630 in Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington. Winslow TAs are paid far below these levels. Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

We care about our students, but we need living wages and benefits just like the rest of the Winslow School District employees. ESS claims that they need more funding in their contract with Winslow School District in order to provide better wages and benefits to the TAs and other paraprofessionals. Winslow School District is financially healthy – it can afford to provide wages for its TAs and other paraprofessionals that don't keep us in poverty.

Please join us in asking the Winslow School District to provide more funding in the ESS paraprofessional contract for better wages and benefits! Email Winslow Superintendent H. Major Poteat (poteathe@winslow-schools.com) and Winslow Board of Education President Cheryl Pitts (Pittsch@winslow-schools.com) to tell them that you support fair wages for the paraprofessionals. Better staff treatment creates a better education environment for our community's children.

For more information, contact Tara McCauley, UE International Representative, at tara.mccauley@ueunion.org or 217-369-5407.

