



# Woodford County Special Education Association

## Grow Your Own Program

WCSEA is seeking special education teaching candidates to work full time as paraprofessionals in our classrooms, all while pursuing a bachelor's degree or endorsement through an online university program. WCSEA currently partners with Grand Canyon University (GCU) to receive reduced tuition. GCU has a strong reputation for providing high quality education programs and we have had several WCSEA employees go through their programs. In addition to special education teachers, we are also interested in hiring candidates who desire to pursue a career as a school psychologist or school social worker. While we officially partner with GCU, we have also supported employees in their education through St. Francis University, University of Phoenix, and the American College of Education. Options are also available to step into a teacher position if you have a bachelor's degree in a field outside of education through the Western Illinois Masters Program (MAT) in Special Education. This allows you to teach while pursuing your degree.

## WCSEA Overview

WCSEA is a special education cooperative serving 8 school districts in Woodford County. We provide specialized opportunities for students ages 3-22, specifically early childhood programs, a behavioral/emotional development day school, life skills/skill builder classes, and a transition program. Our classrooms are led by a teacher and at least one paraprofessional, along with therapists in different disciplines such as speech therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy. WCSEA has approximately 130 employees providing services and programs for students throughout the county.

The benefits of working for WCSEA as a paraprofessional are:

- Work full time and receive health insurance benefits if desired
- Receive up to 9 credit hours of tuition reimbursement each year
- Have the opportunity to work along great teachers while obtaining your degree
- Do your student teaching in the same classroom that you are working as a paraprofessional while continuing to be paid full time

If you desire to join a great organization to further your education, gain valuable experience as an educator, while working full time, WCSEA may be the place for you.



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