

Paraprofessional Frequently Asked Questions

What qualifications must Tier 1 Paraprofessionals meet under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)?

ESSA requires that Tier 1 Paraprofessionals should have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent. If the Paraprofessionals perform instructional duties in a Title 1 Part A program, they must meet one of the following:

- ▶ Two years of study at an institution of higher education (48 semester hours of college coursework) or
- ▶ An Associates Degree (or higher), or
- ▶ Pass one of the following
 - ▶ WorkKeys Test (Bronze+)
 - ▶ ParaPro Assessment (455+)
 - ▶ The OGET

How is the term “Paraprofessional” defined for these requirements? {Title 1, Section 119(g) (2)}

For the purpose of Title 1, Part A the United States Department of Education (USDE) guidance defines a Paraprofessional as an employee of a district who provides instructional support in a program supported with Title 1, Part A funds. “Paraprofessionals who provide instructional support” include:

- ▶ Provide one-on-one tutoring if such tutoring is scheduled at a time when a student would not otherwise receive instruction from a teacher,
- ▶ Assist with classroom management, such as organizing instructional materials, provide instructional support in a library or media center
- ▶ Provide instructional services under the direct supervision of a certified teacher
- ▶ Act as a translator

Because paraprofessionals provide instructional support, they should not be providing planned indirect instruction, or introducing students to new skills, concepts, or academic content. Individuals who work in food services, playground supervision, personal care services, non-instructional computer assistance, and similar positions are not considered paraprofessionals under Title 1 Part A.

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What qualifications does the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) require Special Education Paraprofessionals to have?

Section 300.125 states that (a) “the State Education Agency (SEA) must establish and maintain qualifications to ensure that personnel necessary to carry out the purposes of this part are appropriately and adequately prepared and trained, personnel should have the content knowledge and skills to serve children with disabilities.”

What are the requirements of a Tier 2 Special Education Paraprofessional? In addition to Tier 1 requirements listed above, a Tier 2 Special Education Paraprofessional must meet the following:

- ▶ OSDE Special Education Paraprofessional training through Pepper, career technology centers or other state-approved training providers, and
- ▶ Cardiovascular Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)/First Aid Training, maintaining current certification, and
- ▶ Universal Precautions/Blood Borne Pathogens yearly training, and
- ▶ Six (6) hours of professional development each year

What steps should be taken after participants have completed the Paraprofessional Special Education Training?

Participants must work with their school district to complete and upload the following documents using the online system:

- ▶ Register through the online system (Single Sign On)
- ▶ Upload these documents into the online system
 - ▶ Application with application fee (\$10.00)
 - ▶ Copy of CPR/First Aid Card (front and back)
 - ▶ Certificate of completion of Paraprofessional Special Education Training
 - ▶ Job Description
 - ▶ Daily work schedule outlining duties and responsibilities

Additional Questions?

- ▶ Recommendation Process: Teacher Certification – (405) 521-3337
- ▶ Tier 1 Requirements: Federal Programs – (405) 521-2846
- ▶ Tier 2 Requirements: Special Education – (405) 521-3351

