

TEACHER AIDES/PARAPROFESSIONALS

Qualifications and Duties of Paraprofessionals

No person shall be initially assigned to assist in instruction as a paraprofessional unless he/she has demonstrated proficiency in reading, writing, and mathematics skills up to or exceeding that required for high school seniors pursuant to Education Code 51220(a) and (f) in the high school district that includes all or the largest portion of the district. (Education Code 45330, 45344.5, 45361.5)

A paraprofessional who has passed an NCLB proficiency test in another district and can provide test documentation shall be considered to have met the district proficiency standards. (Education Code 45344.5, 45361.5)

Instructional aides shall perform only such duties as, in the judgment of the certificated personnel to whom the instructional aide is assigned, may be performed by a person not licensed as a classroom teacher. These duties shall not include assignment of grades to students. (Education Code 45344)

Instructional aides need not perform their duties only in the physical presence of the teacher, but the teacher shall retain responsibility for the instruction and supervision of the students in his/her charge. (Education Code 45344)

Additional Qualifications and Duties of Paraprofessionals in Title I Programs

All paraprofessionals working in a program supported by federal Title I funds shall have received a high school diploma or its equivalent. (20 USC 6319; 34 CFR 200.58; Education Code 45330)

In addition, at least one of the following criteria shall be met immediately by paraprofessionals hired on or after January 8, 2002, and by the end of the 2005-06 school year by paraprofessionals hired before January 8, 2002: (20 USC 6319; 34 CFR 200.58; Education Code 45330)

1. Completion of at least two years of study at an institution of higher education

In accordance with the definition adopted by the State Board of Education, "two years of study" shall be equal to 48 semester units or equivalent quarter units.

2. Possession of an associate's degree or higher
3. Knowledge of and ability to assist in instructing reading, writing, and mathematics, as demonstrated through a local or state assessment

TEACHER AIDES/PARAPROFESSIONALS (continued)

A paraprofessional who was hired on or before January 1, 2003, shall be deemed to have met the proficiency exam requirements of item #3 above if he/she has previously demonstrated, through a local assessment, knowledge of and an ability to assist in instructing reading, writing, and mathematics. (Education Code 45330)

Paraprofessionals working in a program supported by Title I funds may be assigned to: (20 USC 6319; 34 CFR 200.59)

1. Provide one-on-one tutoring for eligible students, if the tutoring is scheduled at a time when a student would not otherwise receive instruction from a teacher
2. Assist with classroom management, such as organizing instructional and other materials
3. Provide assistance in a computer laboratory
4. Conduct parental involvement activities
5. Provide support in a library or media center
6. Act as a translator
7. Provide instructional services to students, provided that the paraprofessional is working under the direct supervision of a teacher

Title I paraprofessionals may assume limited duties that are assigned to similar personnel in non-Title I programs, including duties beyond classroom instruction or that do not benefit Title I students, in the same proportion of total work time as non-Title I paraprofessionals. (20 USC 6319; 34 CFR 200.59)

The principal of each school operating a Title I program shall annually attest in writing as to whether the school is in compliance with federal requirements regarding qualifications and duties of paraprofessionals listed above. Copies of attestations shall be maintained at the school and district office and shall be available to the public upon request. (20 USC 6319)

Parental Notification

At the beginning of each school year, a parent/guardian shall be notified that he/she may request information regarding whether his/her child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications. (20 USC 6311)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

TEACHER AIDES/PARAPROFESSIONALS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

44390-44393 California School Paraprofessional Teacher Training Program

44833 Postsecondary students as nonteaching aides

44835 Duties of nonteaching work study aides

45330 Paraprofessionals

45340-45349 Instructional aides

45350-45354 Teacher assistants

45360-45367 Teacher aides

54480-54486 Special Teacher Employment Programs

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

12065-12070 Teacher aides for Special Teacher Employment Programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6311 State plans

6314 Schoolwide programs

6315 Targeted assistance schools

6318 Parent involvement

6319 Qualifications for teachers and paraprofessionals

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

200.58-200.59 Qualifications and duties of paraprofessionals

Management Resources:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Title I Paraprofessionals, Non-Regulatory Guidance, March 1, 2004

Roles for Education Paraprofessionals in Effective Schools, 1997

WEB SITES

CTC Paraprofessional Teacher Training Program: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/para>

CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

California School Employees Association: <http://www.csea.com>

National Resource Center for Paraprofessionals: <http://www.nrcpara.org>

National Clearinghouse for Paraeducator Resources:

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/education/CMMR/Clearinghouse.html>