

FOR ESC REVIEW ONLY

Title I, Part A Paraprofessional* Highly Qualified Requirements

Statutory References

Section 1111(g)(2)(J) The State educational agency will ensure that all teachers and paraprofessionals working in a program supported with funds under this part meet applicable State certification and licensure requirements, including any requirements for certification obtained through alternative routes to certification.

Section 1111(g)(2)(M) The State has professional standards for paraprofessionals working in a program supported with funds under this part, including qualifications that were in place on the day before the date of enactment of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

To Qualify as a Highly Qualified Paraprofessional for a Title I, Part A Program

A paraprofessional is an employee of a local education agency who provides instructional support. Duties of a paraprofessional may include:

- providing one-on-one tutoring if such tutoring is scheduled at a time when a student would not otherwise receive instruction from a teacher;
- assisting with classroom management, such as by organizing instructional materials;
- providing instructional assistance in a computer laboratory;
- conducting parental involvement activities;
- providing instructional support in a library or media center;
- acting as a translator; or
- providing instructional support services under the direct supervision of an appropriately certified teacher.

Paraprofessionals whose duties consist solely of parent and family engagement activities or translation services are exempt from the highly qualified paraprofessional requirement.

Requirements for Highly Qualified Paraprofessionals

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), requires that LEAs continue to ensure that paraprofessionals performing instructional duties on a Title I, Part A Schoolwide served campus, or those that have at least part of their salary paid for by Title I, Part A on a Targeted Assistance campus, meet the Paraprofessional Highly Qualified requirements.

Highly Qualified paraprofessionals must have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent, have the Educational Aide state certification (for audit purposes, within one year) and meet one of the following requirements:

1. Complete at least two years of study at an institution of higher education (defined as completion of 48 semester hours or equivalent trimester hours) of college coursework or an applicable number of semester hours as defined by the institution of higher education attended, whichever is less;
2. Possess an associate's (or higher) degree; or
3. Meet a rigorous standard of quality and can demonstrate, through a local academic assessment—
 - Knowledge of and the ability to assist in instructing reading, writing, and mathematics; or
 - Knowledge of and the ability to assist in instructing reading readiness, writing readiness, and mathematics readiness, as appropriate.

If you have questions, please contact us at ESSAsupport@tea.texas.gov.

[Click here for State Certification Requirements.](#)

* TEA refers to this position as an Educational Aide as per State certification requirements.

**Determining "Highly Qualified" Status
Title I Paraprofessionals**

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Name: _____ Date: _____

LEA: _____

This documentation must be maintained in the employee's service record or personnel file.

Schoolwide Program and Targeted Assistance Program: This requirement applies to paraprofessionals with instructional support duties whose salaries are paid in full or in part from Title I, Part A funds.

For audit and compliance purposes, the paraprofessional must meet the criteria noted in I. and II. prior to providing services as a paraprofessional in the Title I, Part A program, unless the paraprofessional's assigned duties exempt them from the ESSA requirements. TEA will consider any paraprofessional to have met the state requirement (III.) as long as the paraprofessional has completed the Education Aide certification requirement within one year of being hired initially as a paraprofessional.

I. Meets High School Diploma Requirement

___ Yes ___ No **OR** Other Recognized Equivalent: _____

II. Meets 1 of the 3 Following Requirements

Option 1: Two years of study at an institute of higher education (completion of 48 semester hours or equivalent of trimester hours)

___ Yes ___ No

Institution: _____ Total Hours: _____

Option 2: Associate's or higher degree

___ Yes ___ No

Institution: _____

Degree Awarded: ___ Associate's ___ Bachelor's ___ Graduate

Option 3: Meet a rigorous standard of quality and can demonstrate, through a local academic assessment:

- Knowledge of and the ability to assist in instructing reading, writing, and mathematics; **OR**
- Knowledge of and the ability to assist in instructing reading readiness, writing readiness, and mathematics readiness, as appropriate

Assessment: _____

Assessment Score: _____ Passing Standard: _____ Date of Assessment: _____

III. Meets Educational Aide State Certification Requirement

___ Yes ___ No Date Employed in Position: _____ Date Certification Required: _____

Highly Qualified Paraprofessional Determination

Paraprofessional meets the definition of Highly Qualified: ___ Yes ___ No ___ Pending State Certification

Signature of Authorized Administrator

Date