

Paraprofessionals and No Child Left Behind Requirements

Paraprofessionals Providing Instructional Support

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) sets clear paraprofessional academic qualification guidelines for those who provide instructional support in Title I funded programs.

Paraprofessionals, aides who provide instructional support services in a school, can be a valuable resource in any school setting, including aides working with special education students providing instructional support, such as solely providing personal care services.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) allows paraprofessionals to support instruction in Title I programs if they have met **ONE** of the following academic requirements:

1. Must have at least an associate's degree;
2. Must have completed at least two years of college;
3. Must have passed the ParaPro test.

Paraprofessionals Not Providing Instructional Support

Paraprofessionals who are aides in Title I schools do not need to meet the aforementioned academic requirements if their role does not involve instructional support, such as hall monitors, interpreters, or parental involvement aides. Similarly if an aide working with special education students does not provide any instructional support, such as solely providing personal care services, then that person is not considered a paraprofessional under Title I, and academic requirements do not apply.

Note

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) required that paraprofessionals demonstrate competency no later than four years after the law's enactment, or January 8, 2006. Indiana paraprofessionals who do not work in Title I schools must have at least a high school diploma to work as a paraprofessional.

Questions

For more information about becoming a Paraprofessional please contact the Office of Educator Effectiveness and Licensing's Help Desk at (317) 232-9010 or email your questions to licensinghelp@doe.in.gov. For Highly Qualified questions please contact Tana Mansfield, Educator Effectiveness Specialist over Testing and Title II/Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) Specialist by email at hqt@doe.in.gov or by phone at (317) 234-0218. Visit our Highly Qualified webpage at: <http://www.doe.in.gov/effectiveness/educator-effectiveness-highly-qualified-teacher-provisions>.