

The USDOE has approved the IDOE's request to allow LEAs who meet the requirements to utilize the more flexible state defined paraprofessional requirements for highly-qualified rather than the current federal requirements. LEAs may choose one of the following options to serve as their paraprofessional requirements, or they may request approval from IDOE for an option that does not appear on the list below.

The paraprofessional can be determined to for highly-qualified if he or she has:

- Two years of college experience
- A two-year college degree
- Passed the Para-Pro Assessment (within the first year of employment)
- One year or 1,000 hours of previous employment experience in a school or working with children
- Passed annual school-level evaluations
- Completed 48 credit hours of college level classes
- Child Development Associate (CDA) Credentials
- Completed LEA required professional development modules/training
- Completed Other Requirements – LEAs may request approval from IDOE

These requirements apply to Title-I funded paraprofessionals in Targeted Assistance Schools (TAS), or all instructional paraprofessionals no matter how they are funded in Schoolwide Programs (SWPs).