

Paraeducator Requirements of NCLB (No Child Left Behind Act of 2002)

Qualification Requirements for Paraprofessionals under Section 1119 (c) Title 1 of NCLB. <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg2.html#sec1119>

NCLB, the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, states that paraprofessionals hired after January 8, 2002 and working in programs supported by Title 1 funding must have a high school diploma and meet one of the following requirements:

1. Completed at least 2 years of study at an institution of higher education,
2. Completed an associate's (or higher) degree program, or
3. Demonstrate, through some a state or locally determined rigorous assessment, knowledge of and the ability to assist in the instruction of reading, writing, and mathematics and /or reading, writing and math readiness.

Paraprofessionals hired before January 8th, 2002 must meet the above requirements by January 8th, 2006. Furthermore the above requirements will likely also apply to paraprofessionals working in special education programs when IDEA (Special Education) is reauthorized in the future.

Federal Paraeducator Guidance Document

For a more thorough discussion on this topic we suggest that you consult the federal guidance on the paraeducator qualifications. Several frequently asked questions are answered and there is an extended discussion relating to interpretations of the legislation. To link to this document please visit the following URL at U.S. Department of Education's Department of Education at the following website:
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SASA/paraguidance.pdf>