



## Alaska Title I-A Paraprofessional Qualification Requirements

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) currently authorized as No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requires school districts to ensure that paraprofessionals assisting in instruction and employed in programs supported with Title I, Part A funds meet the qualification requirements outlined below. Paraprofessionals supported by Title I, Part A are:

- **Any instructional paraprofessional paid in whole or in part by Title I-A funds in a targeted assistance program**
- **All instructional paraprofessionals working in a Title I school operating a schoolwide program**

Note: Paraprofessionals that serve as language translators or whose duties consist solely of conducting parent involvement activities [NCLB 1119(e)] or who have only non-instructional duties such as providing technical support for computers, providing personal care services or performing clerical duties [CFR 200.58 (2)(ii)] are *not required* to meet the additional qualifications of college credits or the ParaPro test. **All** Title I paraprofessionals must have a high school diploma or GED.

### Minimum Requirements for Title I-A Paraprofessionals

[NCLB Sections 1119(f) and 1119(c)(1)]

- High school diploma or GED
- AND**
- Meet one of the following qualifications:
    - Two years of college (at least 48-semester hour credits); *or*
    - Associate's (or higher) degree; *or*
    - Pass the state approved assessment **and** have the Paraprofessional Standards Checklist administered by a principal or district designated administrative staff member.

### State approved assessment & Paraprofessional Standards Checklist Information

- The ParaPro Assessment is the current state-approved assessment administered by ETS (Educational Testing Service). The minimum passing score on the ParaPro assessment is 459. For more information about the ParaPro assessment, see Qualified Paraprofessional Information on the following link: <http://education.alaska.gov/TeacherCertification/hq.html>

The former state-approved assessment was the HELP assessment. The three required tests and passing scores were Essential Math, 54%; Reading Comprehension, 41%; and Written Expression, 55%. The HELP test is no longer given but will still be accepted to meet the qualifications if an individual has passed all three required tests.

- The Paraprofessional Standards Check list may be found on the Alaska Department of Education Teacher Certification website at: <http://education.alaska.gov/TeacherCertification/pdf/AlaskaParaprofessionalChecklist.pdf>

### Title I Paraprofessionals Non-Regulatory Guidance

Many questions about paraprofessional requirements and qualifications can be answered by the guidance prepared by the U.S. Department of Education. This guidance is available at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/paraguidance.doc>.