

## **Employment: *Paraprofessional Qualifications***

### **Definitions—**

“Direct supervision of a licensed teacher” means:

1. The teacher prepares the lesson and plans the instruction support activities the paraprofessional carries out, and the teacher evaluates the achievement of the students with whom the paraprofessional works; and
2. The paraprofessional works in close and frequent proximity with the teacher.

*Utah Admin. Rules R277-324-2(1) (January 22, 2020)*

“Paraprofessional” or “paraeducator” means a school employee who delivers instruction under the direct supervision of a teacher.

*Utah Admin. Rules R277-324-2(4) (January 22, 2020)*

[\*Utah Code § 53F-2-411\(1\)\(b\) \(2019\)\*](#)

### **Appropriate Assignments or Duties for Paraprofessionals—**

Paraprofessionals or paraeducators may:

1. Provide individual or small group assistance or tutoring to students under the direct supervision of a licensed teacher during times when students would not otherwise be receiving instruction from a teacher;
2. Assist with classroom organization and management, such as organizing instructional or other materials;
3. Provide assistance in computer laboratories;
4. Conduct parental involvement activities;
5. Provide support in library or media centers;
6. Act as translators; or
7. Provide supervision for students in non-instructional settings.

*Utah Admin. Rules R277-324-3 (January 22, 2020)*

### **Requirements for Paraprofessionals in Title I Programs—**

Paraprofessionals who work in programs supported by Title I funding and who were hired before January 6, 2002 must meet one of the following requirements:

1. Complete at least two years (48 semester hours) at an accredited higher education institution;
2. Obtain an associates (or higher) degree from an accredited higher education institution;

3. Satisfy a rigorous state assessment, approved by the State Board of Education or the Board of Education, that demonstrates:
  - a. Knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing, reading, writing, and mathematics, or
  - b. Knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing, reading readiness, writing readiness, and mathematics readiness, as appropriate.

Paraprofessionals who work in programs supported by Title I funding and who were hired after January 6, 2002 must meet at least one of the following requirements:

1. Earn a secondary school diploma or a recognized substitute;
2. Complete at least two years (48 semester hours) at an accredited higher education institution;
3. Obtain an associates (or higher) degree from an accredited higher education institution; or
4. Satisfy a rigorous state or local assessment about the individual's knowledge of an ability to assist students in core courses under state or federal law.

*Utah Admin. Rules R277-324-4(1), (2) (January 22, 2020)*

These restrictions do not apply to a paraprofessional who is proficient in English and a language other than English who provides translator services or to a paraprofessional who is involved as a parent (or similar responsibilities).

*Utah Admin. Rules R277-324-5 (January 22, 2020)*

### **Background Check—**

Each paraprofessional shall pass a criminal background check as provided for under Policy DAC.

*Utah Admin. Rules R277-324-4(3) (January 22, 2020)*

### **Responsibilities Relating to State Paraeducator Funding—**

Paraeducators hired with paraeducator funding from the State Board of Education shall meet the qualifications relating to Title I funding above and provide additional aid in the classroom to assist students in achieving academic success. Schools receiving these funds shall provide annual reports as directed by the State Superintendent.

*Utah Admin. Rules R277-324-8 (January 22, 2020)*