



Title I Paraprofessional Requirements

Michigan paraprofessionals are required to hold a high school diploma (or equivalent), regardless of their assignment, under Michigan law. Michigan Department of Education (MDE) does not issue a certificate or license for paraprofessionals. Additional requirements for the employment of a paraprofessional may be determined by the employing school district, public school academy or non-public school. Additionally, MDE provides a document for the appropriate [Utilization of Noncertified Personnel](#).

On January 8, 2002, President Bush signed the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), federal legislation which amended the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and required paraprofessionals meet specific qualification requirements. The requirement for paraprofessionals to meet specific qualification requirements remains in ESEA as later amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). For the purposes of Title I, Part A, a paraprofessional is defined as an employee who provides instructional support in a program supported with Title I, Part A funds, either in a school-wide program or directly under a target-assisted program. This includes paraprofessionals who do the following:

- Provide one-on-one tutoring if such tutoring is scheduled at a time when a student would not otherwise receive instruction from a teacher.
- Assist with classroom management, such as organizing instructional and other materials.
- Provide instructional assistance in a computer laboratory.
- Provide instructional support in a library or media center.
- Provide instructional support services under the direct supervision of a teacher.

As partners in the instructional process, paraprofessionals hired after January 2, 2002, who work in programs supported with Title I, Part A funds must meet one of the following requirements:

- Complete at least two years of study at an accredited institution of higher education (equal to 60 semester hours); or
- Obtain an associate's degree (or higher) from an accredited institution;
or

- Meet a rigorous standard of quality and demonstrate, through passage of an approved formal state academic assessment in the following areas:
 - Knowledge of, and the ability to assist in, instructing reading, writing, and mathematics; or
 - Knowledge of, and the ability to assist in, instructing reading readiness, writing readiness, and mathematics readiness, as appropriate.

The State Board of Education approved the following formal assessments by which a paraprofessional may choose to demonstrate this knowledge:

- College Board’s SAT – Required Scores:
 - Evidence-based reading and writing – 480; and
 - Mathematics – 530
- ETS Parapro Assessment - A passing score of 460 is required

While no longer available options, the following assessments would also provide qualification:

- Passing score on the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) Basic Skills Test or the MTTC Professional Readiness Examination
- WorkKeys®-Required Minimum Scores:
 - Reading for Information – 4; and
 - Applied Mathematics – 4; and
 - Writing – 3 (Business Writing was NOT approved)
- The ACT (taken between 1/1/89 and 10/1/17) – Required Minimum Scores:
 - Reading -22; and
 - Combined English and Writing – 22; and
 - Mathematics – 22
- The MME (taken between 1/1/2007 and 1/31/15) – Required Minimum Scores:
 - Reading – 1108
 - Writing – 1129
 - Mathematics - 1116

Individuals who work in food services, cafeteria or playground supervisors, personal care services, non-instructional computer assistance, and similar positions do not need to meet the additional qualification requirements but must meet minimum requirements set forth by MDE or the employer.

For more information on paraprofessionals and the requirements, contact the Office of Educational Supports at 517-241-5388.