

Michigan Paraprofessionals and NCLB

On January 8, 2002, President Bush signed the No Child Left Behind Act, federal legislation that mandates 100 percent proficiency in reading, writing, and mathematics for all students by the 2013 - 2014 school year. To reach this goal, the law requires that teachers and paraprofessionals become Highly Qualified.

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. This includes paraprofessionals who do the following:

1. Provide one-on-one tutoring if such tutoring is scheduled at a time when a student would not otherwise receive instruction from a teacher.
2. Assist with classroom management, such as organizing instructional and other materials.
3. Conduct parental involvement activities.
4. Provide instructional assistance in a computer laboratory.
5. Provide support in a library or media center.
6. Act as a translator, or provide instructional support services under the direct supervision of a teacher.

Michigan paraprofessionals are required to hold a high school diploma (or equivalent) regardless of their assignment.

Individuals who work in food services, cafeteria or playground supervisors, personal care services, non -instructional computer assistance, and similar positions are not impacted by the legislation. These individuals do not need to meet the requirements of NCLB.

As partners in the instructional process, paraprofessionals who work in programs supported with Title I funds must meet one of the following requirements:

- Complete at least two years of study at an institution of higher education (equal to 60 semester hours); **or**
- Obtain an associate's degree (or higher); **or**
- Meet a rigorous standard of quality and demonstrate, through a formal state or local academic assessment.
 - 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 Michigan State Board of Education has approved the following formal assessments by which a paraprofessional can demonstrate knowledge:

- [WorkKeys®](#) (Passing scores: Reading for Information – 4, Applied Mathematics – 4, Writing – 3)
- [Michigan Test for Teacher Certification- Basic Skills](#) (MTTC)
- [ETS Parapro Assessment*](#) (Passing score: 460)

*Both the Paper/Pencil Test and Internet-based Test (IbT) versions of the ETS Parapro have been approved. The IbT is only approved if administered by an Intermediate

School District (ISD). Check with your local ISD to see if this test is being offered at their site.

On February 10, 2004, the Michigan State Board also approved *The Guidelines for Michigan Paraprofessional Portfolio* as a local academic assessment. (Latest version: 8/3/05)

[The Guidelines for Michigan Paraprofessional Portfolio](#)

All paraprofessionals hired after January 2, 2002, must already meet *NCLB* requirements as a condition of their employment, while those paraprofessionals hired prior to January 8, 2002, had four years, or until **June 2006**, to meet *NCLB* requirements. For more information, the US Department of Education has a [Non-Regulatory Guidance](#) document for paraprofessionals available.

Paraprofessional Resources/Documents:

[Utilization of Noncertified Personnel Document](#)

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