

REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE-APPROVED PARAPROFESSIONAL

(Effective June 1, 2004)

Except for designated special education paraprofessionals, all paraprofessionals (teacher aides) must have a **Statement of Approval** from the Illinois State Board of Education based on **ONE** of the following:

- A) Completed 30 semester hours of college credit from a regionally accredited institution of higher education. Evidence is an official transcript, **or**
- B) Completed a paraprofessional training program approved by ISBE or ICCB. Evidence is an Illinois Community College Board transcript or certificate of completion, **or**
- C) Passed the ETS Parapro Assessment, with 460 as the minimum passing score. Evidence is an official score report, **or**
- D) Acceptable Score on ACT WorkKeys assessments (Applied Mathematics - 4, Reading for Information - 4, Business Writing - 3, **AND** Acceptable on the *Instructional Support Inventory* which requires observation of an applicant in a classroom setting). Evidence is the ACT WorkKeys "Proficiency Certificate for Teacher Assistants."

Because State approval for paraprofessionals providing instructional support for students with disabilities was not previously required, **paraprofessionals first employed in programs for students with disabilities on or before June 30, 2005, have until July 1, 2007, to meet the State requirement.** These individuals do not have to fill out an application for state approval until they meet the requirements. **Paraprofessionals first employed in special education programs AFTER June 30, 2005, must meet state requirements at the time of employment. Beginning July 1, 2007, all paraprofessionals must have State approval.** (NOTE: This extended timeline for state approval does NOT change the Federal timeline for paraprofessionals providing instructional support in a program supported with Title 1, Part A funds.)

REQUIREMENTS FOR BOTH STATE-AND NCLB-APPROVED PARAPROFESSIONAL

Meet **ONE** of the following four options:

- 1) Completed 60 semester hours of college credit at a regionally accredited institution of higher education. Evidence is an official transcript, **or**
- 2) Obtained an associate's degree (or higher) at a regionally accredited institution of higher education. Evidence is an official transcript, **or**
- 3) Met a formal State assessment by **ONE** of the following means:
 - Passed the ETS ParaPro assessment (460 or higher). Evidence is the official score report, **or**
 - Passed the applicable ACT WorkKeys assessments (Applied Mathematics - 4, Reading for Information - 4, Writing/Business Writing - 3, **AND** Acceptable on the *Instructional Support Inventory* which requires observation of an applicant in a classroom setting). Evidence is the ACT WorkKeys "Proficiency Certificate for Teacher Assistants." **or**
- 4) Met State paraprofessional approval (A or B above) **PLUS**
 - 300 Professional Training Points (PTPs) earned from the following:
 - Paraprofessional work experience (public or private): 1 year = 30 PTPs (maximum 150). Evidence is an official letter signed by the chief administrator or other designated official of the employing school or district.
 - College credit beyond the 30-semester-hour state requirement: 1 semester hour = 15 PTPs. Evidence is an official transcript.
 - ISBE/ICCB Paraprofessional Test Preparation Curriculum training = 15 PTPs. Evidence is a certificate of completion.
 - Professional development activity related to assisting in the instruction of reading/language arts, writing, and/or mathematics: 1 hour participation = 1 PTP

Evidence before July 1, 2004, is a written description of the activity, which includes the subject, date, location, and name of the provider. If available, provide a program, outline, or provider completion form.

Evidence beginning July 1, 2004, is a provider completion form (ISBE Form 77-21) which includes subject, date, and location. If available, provide a program or outline. **or**
 - Passed a rigorous local academic assessment that conforms to federal guidelines. Evidence is ISBE form 77-34.