

What is a Paraprofessional?

Paraprofessionals play an essential role within school districts. Under the supervision of a licensed teacher, a paraprofessional supports teachers and students in many ways. For instance, a paraprofessional can tutor students or assist the teacher with managing the classroom and organizing instructional materials.

The Illinois State Board of Education offers several options if you are interested in becoming a licensed paraprofessional.

OPTION 1: **Short-Term Approval for the Paraprofessional** • **Application fee: \$50**

REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ High school diploma (or equivalent) or higher

EMPLOYMENT

- Valid for three fiscal years*
- Non-renewable
- Eligible to be employed as a full-time paraprofessional
- No limit on work days

HOW TO APPLY

- Log in to [ELIS](#)
- From the home page, select "Apply for Credential" and click "Approvals."
- Choose Short-term Approval for Paraprofessionals to complete application and pay fee.
- Submit copy of high school diploma to licensureforms@isbe.net.

OPTION 2: **ELS Paraprofessional Educator Endorsement**

Application fee: \$100 | Registration fee: \$30

REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Must provide proof of **one** of the following:
 - Associate degree or higher
 - 60 semester hours of coursework
 - High school diploma/GED** with score of 460 or higher on the ETS Paraprofessional test
 - High school diploma/GED** with score of 4 or higher on the ACT Workkeys Applied Mathematics and Reading for Information tests

EMPLOYMENT

- Valid for five years
- Renewable
- Eligible to be employed as a full-time paraprofessional
- No limit on work days

HOW TO APPLY

- Log in to [ELIS](#).
- From the Action Center, apply for a paraprofessional license.
- Complete application and pay fee.
- Submit copy of test scores to licensureforms@isbe.net or have your institution of higher education email official transcripts to transcripts@isbe.net.
- Once issued, you must register your license in ELIS.

*You must be working toward fulfilling requirements for the ELS Paraprofessional Educator endorsement during the time you have a short-term approval.

**If you already hold the paraprofessional short-term approval, you do not need to resubmit your high school diploma/GED.