

Paraeducators

Paraeducators work under the guidance of both regular education and special education teachers to support educational programming and assist in providing instructional programs and services to students.

The terms “teacher aides,” “classroom assistants,” “instructional paraprofessionals,” and “instructional aides” all refer to paraeducators.

A personal care assistant (PCA) is also considered a paraeducator. A PCA is an individual who provides one-to-one support and assistance to a student, including support and assistance in the use of medical equipment, for example; augmentative communication devices; activities of daily living; and monitoring health and behavior.

Paraeducators may be provided for an academic department or teaching team to relieve teachers of clerical duties so that they may have more time for planning and direct work with the students.

Appropriate orientation procedures and an evaluation will be conducted annually, as applicable, for paraeducators under the direction of the building principal.

Qualifications

All instructional paraeducators hired by the District either directly or through a contractor must have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent and have achieved one of the following:

1. Completed at least two years of study at an institution of higher education;
2. Obtained an associate's or higher degree; or
3. Met a rigorous standard of quality and can demonstrate, through a formal state or local academic assessment, knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing, reading, writing, and mathematics.

Instructional paraeducators, each school year, shall provide evidence of 20 hours of staff development activities related to their assignment.

PCAs shall provide evidence of 20 hours of staff development activities related to their assignment each school year. The 20 hours of training may include training required by the School-Based ACCESS Program.

Paraeducators who only serve as translators or who only conduct parental involvement activities must have a secondary diploma or its equivalent but do not have to meet the additional requirements listed above.