

# Alaska Instructional Paraprofessional Standards and Requirements

## Paraprofessional Standards [4 AAC 04.220]

### **(a) A paraprofessional will demonstrate the ability to:**

- (1) practice ethical and professional standards of conduct and continued professional improvement;
- (2) understand how students learn and develop and understand how to assist in providing opportunities that support students' intellectual, social and personal development;
- (3) understand the content areas and apply the elements of effective instruction to support teaching and learning activities;
- (4) motivate and assist students to build self-esteem, develop interpersonal skills, and strengthen abilities in order to become more successful;
- (5) understand the distinction between the roles and responsibilities of professionals, paraprofessionals, and support personnel in the areas of assessment, diagnosis, and evaluation;
- (6) adhere to communication protocols with colleagues, community members, and parents including following instructions, sharing information, and using interpersonal skills to become an effective member of the instructional team;
- (7) understand and implement district and state guidelines for protecting the safety, health and wellbeing of students and staff, including the school district's crisis response plan; and
- (8) utilize technology to assist and enhance teaching and learning.

## Paraprofessional Requirements [4 AAC 04.220]

### **(b) Each district shall ensure that all paraprofessionals employed by the district in a public school in any grades pre-kindergarten through grade 12 have:**

- (1) earned a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent; and
- (2) met the standards set out in (a) of this section through an annual evaluation. The annual evaluation must consist of observations and interviews by district personnel qualified to evaluate paraprofessionals.

### **(c) Except as provided in (d) of this section, and in addition to the requirements of (b) of this section, each district shall ensure that a paraprofessional has met at least one of the following requirements:**

- (1) completed at least two years, or 48 semester hours or equivalent, of study at a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
- (2) obtained an associate's or higher degree at a regionally accredited institution of higher education; or
- (3) achieve any of the following
  - (A) a score of at least 459 on the ParaPro Assessment, published by the Educational Testing Service; or
  - (B) minimum scores on the Higher Education Learning Profile (HELP), published by Educational Resources Incorporated:
    - (i) essential math, 54 percent;
    - (ii) reading comprehension, 41 percent; and
    - (iii) written expression, 55 percent.
  - (C) passed the MasterTeacher, Inc. (Paraeducator) Online Training and Assessments
    - (i) Assessment 1 Reading, Writing, and Math: Instructional Support, 65%
    - (ii) Assessment 2 Reading, Writing, and Math, 70%;
  - (D) passed the specific WorkKeys assessment
    - (i) workplace documents, Level 4

- (ii) applied math, Level 4; and
  - (iii) graphic literacy, Level 3.
- (E) meet the qualifying Basic Competency Exam (BCE) scores under 4 AAC 12.310
- (i) See [webpage](http://education.alaska.gov/teachercertification/praxis) (education.alaska.gov/teachercertification/praxis)

**(d) A paraprofessional is not required to meet the requirements of (c) of this section if the paraprofessional**

- (1) acts as a translator to enhance the participation of English learners or students with disabilities;
- (2) has instructional-support duties that consist solely of conducting parental involvement activities; or
- (3) has only non-instructional duties, including providing technical support for computers, providing personal care duties, or performing clerical duties.

## Definitions [4 AAC 04.900]

**(a) In this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise,**

- (1) "department" means the Department of Education and Early Development;
- (2) "paraprofessional" means a person who is not required to have a professional license or certification and who, under the supervision of a teacher or other professional educational service provider, provides instructional or other educational support to a student.