

Paraeducator Permits

New Credentials Will Be Issued to Delaware Paraeducators

The Department of Education (DoE) is preparing to issue a new credential called a "permit" to all paraeducators employed in Delaware's public schools.

This permit will verify each person's qualifications and training to serve as a Title I, instructional, or service paraeducator. All paraeducator positions will be classified as one of these three types. Descriptions of the three types of permits are attached.

Why?

One reason for creating the Delaware Paraeducator Permit is to collect information about the current qualifications and training of all of Delaware's paraeducators. This information will be used to help design support activities to assist those who do not yet meet new Federal requirements.

The permit will also serve as a professional credential that validates each individual's qualifications for employment as a paraeducator in Delaware's public schools.

What about Federal requirements?

The Federal law called "No Child Left Behind" requires that paraeducators who work in Title I programs meet the law's definition of "highly qualified" no later than June 30, 2006.

A paraeducator may meet the "highly qualified" definition by (1) earning an associate's (or higher) college degree *OR* (2) completing 2 years (60 credits) of college *OR* (3) having a high school diploma or recognized equivalent and demonstrating, through a state or local assessment, knowledge of reading, writing, and math and the ability to assist in the instruction of these subjects.

What about Delaware requirements?

Requirements for a Delaware Title I permit are the same as the Federal "highly qualified" requirements for Title I paraeducators. The Delaware Professional Standards Board and State Board of Education set the requirements for Instructional and Service paraeducator permits. Descriptions of the permits are attached.

All Delaware paraeducators will be asked to provide information and all will receive permits. The type of permit will depend upon a paraeducator's qualifications and job assignment.

How will this work?

The information will be collected through DEEDS <www.deeds.doe.state.de.us>, the on-line Delaware Educator Data System that the Department of Education created to record and process teachers' and administrators' credentials. DoE is training district personnel directors about the new Paraeducator section of DEEDS.

The DoE will send a letter to all paraeducators to explain the new system and the procedures for registering in DEEDS, providing and updating information, and tracking the status of the permit. Copies of the applicable permit will be mailed to both the district personnel director and the paraeducator.

When will permits be issued?

Collection of information from districts and paraeducators will start in April 2004. Permits will be issued when DEEDS records are complete.

Delaware Paraeducator Permits

	Title I Paraeducator	Instructional Paraeducator	Service Paraeducator
Definition	<p>A public school employee who provides one-on-one or small group tutoring; assists with classroom management; provides assistance in a computer laboratory; provides support in a library or media center; or provides instructional services to students under the direct supervision of a teacher. Additionally, Title I paraeducators are all instructional paraeducators who work with regular students and children with disabilities in Title I schoolwide schools and all Title I paraeducators who work with children receiving Title I services in Title I targeted assistance schools, except those whose duties are limited to acting as a translator or as a home-school liaison.</p>	<p>A public school employee who provides one-on-one or small group instruction; assists with classroom management or individual student behavior; provides assistance in a computer laboratory; provides support in a library or media center; assists in training and support with functional skill activities, such as personal care or assistive technology; or provides instructional services to students under the direct supervision of a teacher. Instructional paraeducators are those working with regular education students and students with disabilities in schools other than Title I schoolwide schools or with students not receiving Title I services in Title I targeted assistance schools.</p>	<p>A public school employee who provides support services other than instructional assistance to students.</p>
Permit	Title I Paraeducator Permit	Instructional Paraeducator Permit	Service Paraeducator Permit
Requirements	<p>Associate's (or higher) college degree OR 2 years (60 credits) of college OR high school diploma or recognized equivalent <u>and</u> passing score on the ParaPro assessment (score of 459 or higher) or the Accuplacer Test if taken before April 1, 2003 (scores of 94 or higher on arithmetic, 87 or higher on English, 78 or higher on reading).</p>	High school diploma or recognized equivalent.	High school diploma or recognized equivalent.

	Title I Paraeducator	Instructional Paraeducator	Service Paraeducator
Deadline for Meeting Requirements	June 30, 2006	June 30, 2006	June 30, 2006
Application procedure	Through district personnel office and DEEDS. Official transcripts and test score reports required.	Through district personnel office and DEEDS. Evidence of high school diploma or recognized equivalent required.	Through district personnel office and DEEDS. Evidence of high school diploma or recognized equivalent required.
Duration	5 years	5 years	5 years
Renewal	<p>Complete 15 clock hours of professional development during term of permit.</p> <p>Professional development options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ college credits ~ planned school professional development day ~ conference or workshop that contributes to individual's knowledge, competence, performance, or effectiveness as a paraeducator ~ school-, district-, or state-sponsored committee focused on curriculum, instruction or school or district improvement 	<p>Complete 15 clock hours of professional development during term of permit.</p> <p>Professional development options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ college credits ~ planned school professional development day ~ conference or workshop that contributes to individual's knowledge, competence, performance, or effectiveness as a paraeducator ~ school-, district-, or state-sponsored committee focused on curriculum, instruction or school or district improvement 	<p>Complete 15 clock hours of professional development during term of permit.</p> <p>Professional development options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ college credits ~ planned school professional development day ~ conference or workshop that contributes to individual's knowledge, competence, performance, or effectiveness as a paraeducator ~ school-, district-, or state-sponsored committee focused on curriculum, instruction or school or district improvement