

Paraprofessional Approval Time Frames

The paraprofessional (teacher's aide) may assist teachers through interactions with students that will help them master curricular content, such as tutoring, or assisting with classroom management, such as organizing instructional materials. A paraprofessional is required to be under the immediate supervision of a certified teacher. (Individuals who work in food services, cafeteria or playground supervision, personal care services, non-instructional computer assistance and similar positions are not considered paraprofessionals.)

Employment as a paraprofessional requires a statement of approval issued by the Illinois State Board of Education in consultation with the State Teacher Certification Board. Exceptions are paraprofessionals first employed on or before June 30, 2005, in a program that serves students with disabilities and whose position is not funded with Title I, Part A monies. These paraprofessionals will become subject to this requirement July 1, 2007. Please refer to the following chart to determine what approval is required for your individual position.

Paraprofessional provides:	Instructional support* in a <u>general</u> education program which is NOT FUNDED with Title I, Part A	Instructional support* in a <u>special</u> education program which is NOT FUNDED with Title I, Part A	Instructional support* in a <u>general</u> education program which IS FUNDED through Title I, Part A	Instructional support* in a <u>special</u> education program which IS FUNDED through Title I, Part A.
Must currently hold State paraprofessional approval	X			
Must hold State paraprofessional approval by July 1, 2007		X		
Must currently hold State paraprofessional approval and must receive NCLB approval by the end of this school year (2005-2006)			X	
Must receive NCLB paraprofessional approval by the end of this school year (2005-06) and will qualify for the required State approval				X

* Instructional support is defined as one-on-one tutoring for eligible students, if the tutoring is scheduled at a time when a student would not otherwise receive instruction from a teacher; assisting in classroom management; assisting in computer instruction; providing support in a library or media center; or providing instructional support services under the direct supervision of a teacher.

NOTE: An individual or an administrator may verify credentials, including paraprofessional approvals, on OTIS (On-line Teacher Information System) at www.isbe.net.

Persons with state approval may need to reapply to have their approval statement updated. For example, an individual who holds an associate's degree or higher who was issued state approval years ago will not show NCLB approval, unless the individual reapplies and has the approval updated.

Information regarding paraprofessional approval requirements and steps for applying are available at <http://www.isbe.net/certification/html/paraprofessional.htm>.