



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 001-18 Educator Growth and Development

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers
School District Human Resource Directors

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Paraeducator Employment Requirements

CONTACT: Cindy Rockholt, Assistant Superintendent, Educator Growth and Development
360-725-4991, cindy.rockholt@k12.wa.us

PURPOSE/ BACKGROUND

The 2017 Legislature passed into law ESHB 1115 identifying requirements for paraeducator employment in Washington State.

MINIMUM EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Effective September 1, 2018, the following minimum employment requirements, as written into law by HB 1115, go into effect. All paraeducators must:

Be at least eighteen years of age and hold a high school diploma or its equivalent; **and**

- a) Have received a passing grade on the Education Testing Service's Paraeducator Assessment; **or**
- b) Hold an Associate of Arts degree; **or**
- c) Have earned seventy-two quarter credits or forty-eight semester credits at an institution of higher education; **or**
- d) Have completed a registered apprenticeship program.

These minimum employment requirements are for experienced paraeducators as well as for newly hired paraeducators beginning September 1, 2018. The Paraeducator Standards Board, as part of their duties, will adopt the Standards of Practice, Fundamental Course of Study requirements, and requirements for each paraeducator certificate prior to the September 1, 2018 piloting of standards and certificates.

The following links have information about the development of the new certification, standards of practice, and the timeline of the legislative requirements for paraeducators:

- OSPI [Paraeducator Certification](#) website
- Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) [Paraeducator Board](#) website
- Sign up to receive news and event information from PESB, including the Paraeducator Board at [Professional Educator Standards Board Home Page](#) (scroll to the bottom of the webpage to sign up).

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Cindy Rockholt at 360-725-4991 or email cindy.rockholt@k12.wa.us The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins and Memoranda](#) page of the OSPI website.

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