

1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

2 **R277-324. Paraprofessional/Paraeducator Programs, Assignments, and**  
3 **Qualifications.**

4 **R277-324-1. Authority and Purpose.**

5 (1) This rule is authorized by:

6 (a) [Utah Constitution, Article X, Section 3](#) which vests general control and  
7 supervision of public education in the Board;

8 (b) Subsection [53E-3-401\(4\)](#), which gives the Board authority to adopt rules in  
9 accordance with its responsibilities; and

10 (c) Subsection [53E-3-501\(1\)\(a\)\(i\)](#), which requires the Board to establish rules and  
11 minimum standards for the public schools regarding the qualification and certification of  
12 educators and ancillary personnel who provide direct student services; and

13 (d) Subsection [53F-2-411\(4\)](#), which requires the Board to establish a rule that  
14 creates the funding distribution for money appropriated to paraeducator programs.

15 (2) The purpose of this rule is to:

16 (a) designate appropriate assignments of paraprofessionals and qualifications for  
17 paraprofessionals;

18 (b) establish the formula for distribution of Paraeducator funding under Section  
19 [53F-2-411](#) to eligible schools; and

20 (c) provide minimum standards for use of funds and reporting requirements.

21

22 **R277-324-2. Definitions.**

23 (1) "Direct supervision of a licensed teacher" means:

24 (a) the teacher prepares the lesson and plans the instruction support activities the  
25 paraprofessional carries out, and the teacher evaluates the achievement of the students  
26 with whom the paraprofessional works; and

27 (b) the paraprofessional works in close and frequent proximity with the teacher.

28 (2) "Eligible school," means the same as the term is defined in Subsection  
29 [53F-2-411\(1\)\(a\)](#).

30 (3) "Paraeducator funding" means supplemental state funding provided under  
31 Section [53F-2-411](#) to Title I schools identified as in need of improvement under the  
32 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), Title IX, Part A, 20 U.S.C. 7801 to hire  
33 additional paraeducators to assist students in achieving academic success.

34 (4) "Paraprofessional" or "paraeducator" means the same as the term is defined in  
35 Subsection [53F-2-411\(1\)\(b\)](#).

36

37 **R277-324-3. Appropriate Assignments or Duties for Paraprofessionals.**

38 Paraprofessionals may:

39 (1) provide individual or small group assistance or tutoring to students under the  
40 direct supervision of a licensed teacher during times when students would not otherwise  
41 be receiving instruction from a teacher;

42 (2) assist with classroom organization and management, such as organizing  
43 instructional or other materials;

44 (3) provide assistance in computer laboratories;

45 (4) conduct parental involvement activities;

46 (5) provide support in library or media centers;

47 (6) act as translators; or

48 (7) provide supervision for students in non-instructional settings.

49

50 **R277-324-4. Requirements for Paraprofessionals.**

51 (1) Paraprofessionals hired before January 6, 2002 who function under  
52 Subsection [R277-504-3\(1\)](#), and work in programs supported by Title I funds shall meet at  
53 least one of the following requirements:

54 (a) complete at least two years (minimum of 48 semester hours) at an accredited  
55 higher education institution;

56 (b) obtain an associates (or higher) degree from an accredited higher education  
57 institution; or

58 (c) satisfy a rigorous state assessment, approved by the Board or LEA governing

59 board, that demonstrates:

60 (i) knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing, reading, writing, and  
61 mathematics; or

62 (ii) knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing, reading readiness, writing  
63 readiness, and mathematics readiness, as appropriate.

64 (2) Paraprofessionals hired after January 6, 2002 in programs supported by Title I  
65 funds shall meet at least one of the following requirements:

66 (a) earn a secondary school diploma or a recognized equivalent;

67 (b) complete at least two years (minimum of 48 semester hours) at an accredited  
68 higher education institution;

69 (c) obtain an associates (or higher) degree from an accredited higher education  
70 institution; or

71 (d) has satisfy a rigorous state or local assessment about the individual's  
72 knowledge of an ability to assist students in core courses under state or federal law.

73 (3) The individual shall satisfactorily complete a criminal background check  
74 consistent with Section [53G-11-402](#) and Rule [R277-516](#).

75

76 **R277-324-5. Variances.**

77 The provisions of this rule do not apply to:

78 (1) A paraprofessional who is proficient in English and a language other than  
79 English who provide translator services; or

80 (2) A paraprofessional who has only parental involvement or similar  
81 responsibilities.

82

83 **R277-324-6. Use of Funds.**

84 An LEA may use Title I funds in addition to other funds available and identified by  
85 the LEA to support ongoing training and professional development for paraprofessionals.

86

87 **R277-324-7. Funding Distribution.**

88 The Superintendent shall divide the funds provided under Section [53F-2-411](#)  
89 equally to eligible schools.

91 **R277-324-8. Responsibilities of Eligible Schools Receiving Paraeducator Funding.**

92 (1) A paraeducators hired with paraeducator funding shall:

93 (a) meet the qualifications described in Section R277-324-4.

94 (b) additional aid in the classroom to assist students in achieving academic  
95 success.

96 (2) Schools accepting these funds shall provide an annual report as directed by  
97 the Superintendent that includes the following:

98 (a) the number of paraeducators hired with program money;

99 (b) school funding, in addition to funds provided under this rule, the school used to  
100 supplement program money to hire paraeducators; and

101 (c) accountability measures, including student test scores and other student  
102 assessment elements for students served by the program.

103

104 **KEY: paraprofessional qualifications**

105 **Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment:**

106 **Notice of Continuation: March 14, 2019**

107 **Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#);**

108 **[53E-3-501\(1\)\(a\)\(i\)](#); [53F-2-411\(4\)](#)**