

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;

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 [53F-](#)  
19 [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) "Eligible school," means the same as the term is defined in Subsection [53F-2-](#)  
24 [411\(1\)\(a\)](#).

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

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

31 (4) "Paraprofessional training" means professional development consistent with or  
32 using information provided in this rule and the Utah Standards for Instructional  
33 Paraeducators.

34

35 **R277-324-3. Incorporation by Reference of Utah Standards for Instructional**  
36 **Paraeducators.**

37 (1) This rule incorporates by reference the Utah Standards for Instructional  
38 Paraeducators.

39 (2) A copy of the Utah Standards for Instructional Paraeducators is available at:

40 (a)

41 [https://www.schools.utah.gov/specialeducation/programs/instructioninclusion?mid=4949&ti](https://www.schools.utah.gov/specialeducation/programs/instructioninclusion?mid=4949&tid=3)  
42 [d=3](#); and

43 (b) the offices of the Utah State Board of Education, 250 E. 500 So., Salt Lake City,  
44 Utah, 84111.

45

46 **R277-324-4. Appropriate Assignments or Duties for Paraprofessionals.**

47 (1) A paraprofessional may:

48 (a) upon completion of explicit training from appropriately licensed teachers or  
49 related service providers, provide individual or small group instructional assistance or  
50 tutoring to students as designed by an appropriately licensed teacher or related service  
51 provider during times when students would not otherwise receive instruction from an  
52 appropriately licensed teacher or related service provider;

53 (b) assist with classroom organization and management, such as organizing  
54 instructional or other materials;

55 (c) provide assistance with supplementary aids and services, program modifications,  
56 and support, such as assistive technology devices and services;

57 (d) conduct parental involvement activities;

- 58 (e) provide support in library or media centers; or
- 59 (f) provide supervision for students in non-instructional settings.
- 60 (2) A paraprofessional may not:
- 61 (a) be responsible for selecting or administering formal diagnostic or psychological
- 62 instruments or for interpreting the results of those instruments if the paraprofessional's
- 63 training, licensure, or other forms of certification do not align with the administration and
- 64 interpretation requirements stated in an instrument's technical manual;
- 65 (b) be responsible for selecting programming or prescribing educational activities or
- 66 materials for the students without the supervision and guidance of an appropriately licensed
- 67 teacher or related service provider;
- 68 (c) be solely responsible for designing lesson plans;
- 69 (d) be assigned to implement elements of an IEP for a student with disabilities
- 70 without direct training, supervision, and involvement from an appropriately licensed teacher
- 71 or related service provider;
- 72 (e) employed to fulfill the responsibilities that may only be provided by an
- 73 appropriately licensed and otherwise qualified teacher or related service provider; or
- 74 (f) perform nursing procedures or administer medications without appropriate
- 75 supervision and training from an appropriately licensed health care professional.
- 76 (3) A licensed teacher shall:
- 77 (a) prepare a lesson and plan the instruction support activities to be carried out by a
- 78 paraprofessional;
- 79 (b) evaluate the achievement of the students with whom a paraprofessional works;
- 80 and
- 81 (c) provide the supervision and support to the paraprofessional that the teacher
- 82 deems appropriate for the paraprofessional to work effectively in the paraprofessional's role
- 83 and responsibilities.
- 84 (4) If a paraeducator is working in a special education program, the LEA shall
- 85 appropriately train the special education teacher to supervise and direct the work of the
- 86 paraeducator in the paraeducator's assigned roles and responsibilities.

87 (5) An LEA that employs a paraprofessional shall establish and maintain  
88 documentation of training provided by the LEA as required in:

89 (a) Subsection (1)(a); and

90 (b) for an paraprofessional who works with a student with a disability, Utah State  
91 Board of Education Special Education Rules Section IX.E, incorporated by reference into  
92 [R277-750](#).

93

94 **R277-324-5. Requirements for Paraprofessionals in Title I Schoolwide and Targeted**  
95 **Assistance Programs.**

96 ~~[(1) A paraprofessional hired before January 6, 2002 who function under Subsection~~  
97 ~~R277-504-3(1), and work in Title I schoolwide and targeted assistance programs supported~~  
98 ~~by Title I funds shall be a high school graduate or equivalent and shall meet at least one of~~  
99 ~~the following requirements:~~

100 ~~—— (a) complete at least two years, or a minimum of 48 semester hours, at an accredited~~  
101 ~~higher education institution;~~

102 ~~—— (b) obtain an associates, or higher, degree from an accredited higher education~~  
103 ~~institution; or~~

104 ~~—— (c) satisfy a rigorous state assessment, approved by the Board or LEA governing~~  
105 ~~board, that demonstrates:~~

106 ~~—— (i) knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing, reading, writing, and~~  
107 ~~mathematics; or~~

108 ~~—— (ii) knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing, reading readiness, writing~~  
109 ~~readiness, and mathematics readiness, as appropriate.]~~

110 ([2]1) A paraprofessional hired [after January 6, 2002] to work in Title I schoolwide  
111 [and] or targeted assistance programs supported by Title I funds shall be a high school  
112 graduate or equivalent and shall meet at least one of the following requirements:

113 (a) complete at least two years, or a minimum of 48 semester hours, at an accredited  
114 higher education institution;

115 (b) obtain an associate[s], or higher, degree from an accredited higher education  
116 institution; or

117 (c) satisfy a rigorous [~~state or local~~] Board approved assessment [~~about the~~  
118 ~~individual's knowledge of an ability to assist students in core courses under state or federal~~  
119 ~~law.] that demonstrates:~~

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

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

124 (3) [~~The individual~~] A paraprofessional shall satisfactorily complete a criminal  
125 background check consistent with Section [53G-11-402](#) and Rule [R277-~~516~~316](#).

126

127 **R277-324-6. Exceptions in Title I Schoolwide and Targeted Assistance Programs.**

128 The requirements in Section R277-324-4 do not apply to a paraprofessional with a  
129 high school diploma or equivalent solely providing:

- 130 (1) support through translator services;  
131 (2) support as a parent engagement liaison; or  
132 (3) personal care for students with disabilities.

133

134 **R277-324-7. Use of Funds.**

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

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138 **R277-324-8. Funding Distribution.**

139 (1) The Superintendent shall divide the funds provided under Section [53F-2-411](#)  
140 equally to schools identified as comprehensive support and improvement schools.

141 (2) A school may only use funds distributed in accordance with Subsection (1) to  
142 hire high quality paraeducators to assist with reading instruction.

143

144 **R277-324-9. Responsibilities of Eligible Schools Receiving Paraeducator Funding.**

145 (1) A paraeducator hired with paraeducator funding shall:

146 (a) meet the qualifications described in Section R277-324-5; and

147 (b) provide additional aid in the classroom to assist students in achieving academic  
148 success.

149

150 **KEY: paraprofessional qualifications**

151 **Date of Last Change: November 26, 2021**

152 **Notice of Continuation: September 9, 2021**

153 **Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); [53E-3-](#)  
154 [501\(1\)\(a\)\(i\)](#); [53F-2-411\(4\)](#)**