

ETS ParaPro Assessment Pathway

Educational Testing Service (ETS) developed the ParaPro Assessment to meet the NCLB Title I paraeducator qualification requirements. This nationally developed assessment is based on a job analysis of the day-to-day responsibilities of paraeducators and in accordance to the federal guidance requirements. Washington paraeducators and teachers, as well as others throughout the nation, were involved in the development, pilot testing, and standard setting of this assessment.

Educational Service Districts (ESDs) have developed workshops to assist paraeducators and district staff that assist paraeducators to meet the Title I requirements through the ETS ParaPro Assessment. This professional development ranges from test preparation skills to subject area courses in reading, writing, and mathematics. Contact your local ESD to get additional information about professional development opportunities. A list of ESD contacts is provided in the Resources section.

General Information about the ETS ParaPro Assessment

	Question	Answer
1.	<i>What is the format and length of the ETS ParaPro Assessment?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The test consists of 90 multiple choice items and is 2.5 hours in length. • The test can be taken either online at school districts or at paper and pencil sites set up by ETS.
2.	<i>What are the costs/fees?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both the pencil/paper & Internet-based tests are \$40
3.	<i>How often can the test be taken?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pencil and paper - six times per year. • Internet based – ETS recommends that school districts observe a 30-day period between retakes.
4.	<i>What is Washington State’s qualifying score?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington’s score is 461.
5.	<i>How are scores reported?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The test will yield one overall score plus six sub scores; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ three sub scores, one each for reading skills, writing skills, and mathematics skills. ○ three sub scores for applications of each of these skills to classroom instruction.
6.	<i>Are retakes available for only one section or subsection areas?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retakes are not available for subsections. If the assessment is not passed with a total score of 461, all sections of the assessment must be retaken.
7.	<i>What test preparation materials are available?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test-at-a-Glance (TAAG) is a free guide with test specifications, sample questions and answers and is available at www.ets.org/parapro/index.html. • ParaPro Study Guide is available for purchase at www.ets.org/parapro or 1-800-537-3161 (Monday-Friday, 8 am – 7 pm EST).
8.	<i>How can additional information be accessed?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional information can be accessed at www.ets.org/parapro.
9.	<i>How does the school district document the paraeducator has successfully met the Title I requirement?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school district should document the paraeducator has met the Title I requirement by completing the Record of Verification of NCLB Title I Paraeducator Requirements form (See Data Collection and Recordkeeping Section).

ETS ParaPro Assessment - Paper and Pencil Testing

The ETS ParaPro Assessment is available in paper/pencil format to prospective or existing paraeducators at ETS approved testing sites in Washington.

	Question	Answer
1.	<i>Where are paper and pencil sites in Washington?</i>	<p>There are six (6) paper and pencil sites in Washington in which the assessment is administered approximately six (6) times a year.</p> <p>These sites include: Bellingham - Western Washington University Ellensburg - Central Washington University Seattle - University of Washington Spokane - Gonzaga University Vancouver - Evergreen High School Walla Walla - Whitman College</p>
2.	<i>What are the registration and testing dates for school year 2003-04?</i>	Please check the ETS website for current testing dates (ets.org) or contact your school district/ESD directly.
3.	<i>How can paraeducators register for the test?</i>	<p>A registration form is in the Parapro Registration Bulletin. This bulletin may be ordered on-line at www.ets.org/parapro.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go to Frequently Asked Questions for Paraprofessional Candidates, How do I register to take the test? ○ Then go to <u>Registration Bulletin Order Form</u>. You can review and download the <i>Registration Bulletin</i> by clicking on <i>ParaPro Assessment Registration Bulletin</i>. However, you must obtain copy of the printed Registration Bulletin to register for the paper and pencil test. The downloadable version does not contain the scannable registration form you need to register.
4.	<i>Will special accommodations be made?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special accommodations can be requested using the instructions provided in the ParaPro Registration Bulletin, available at: www.ets.org/parapro/index.html.
5.	<i>When are scores reported?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four weeks after the test administration

ETS ParaPro Assessment - Online Testing

ETS provides online testing through school district sites to be used at the convenience of school districts and paraeducators. Online testing is only accessible through PC computer systems.

	Question	Answer
1.	<i>How can school districts register for online testing?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For detailed information related to registration for online testing refer to OSPI Memorandum 61-03 LEARNING AND TEACHING, dated August 7, 2003.
2.	<i>How can paraprofessionals access online testing?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paraprofessionals should contact their school district to see if this option is available.
3.	<i>Are special accommodations available?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special accommodations are available for online testing. Contact ETS at ets.org to get additional information for special accommodation options.
4.	<i>When are scores reported?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the end of the testing session unofficial scores will be available to the candidate for printing. School districts have access to scores via the internet.
5.	<i>Who will receive test scores?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school district where the test was administered will be the default score recipient.
6.	<i>What are the minimum hardware requirements for our district to be able to administer the Internet-based test?</i>	<p>The application has been developed to perform on a wide range of PC configurations, since it runs as a web-based application started from your Internet browser. iBT (internet Based testing) only requires an Internet web browser and an installation of Sun's WebStart in order to run.</p> <p>In order to achieve optimal performance, please refer to the ETS guidelines. Some PCs may be able to run the ParaPro iBT application on PCs with less than the minimum requirements specified, but performance may be degraded.</p>