New! Minimum Employment Requirements: All Preschool Paraeducators (Paraprofessionals or Preschool Instructional Assistant Teachers) for 2020–21 school year: ESSA Section 1111(g)(2)(J)

All preschool (ECEAP/Head Start/) paraeducators (paraprofessionals or instructional assistant teachers) in a Title I, Part A Schoolwide building during the 2019–2020 school year and beyond must complete and meet the new preschool requirements by the beginning of school year 2020–2021.

In a Title I, Part A preschool program in a Schoolwide program school, all paraeducators (paraprofessionals or instructional assistant teachers) must meet the requirements below, regardless of how their salaries are funded. (Note: instructional assistant teachers/paraeducators, in ECEAP and Head Start, also must meet minimum requirements.)

In a Title I, Part A preschool program in a Targeted Assistance school, a paraeducator (paraprofessional or instructional assistant teacher) paid with Title I, Part A funds must meet the requirements below. (Note: instructional assistant teachers/paraeducators/paraprofessionals, in ECEAP and Head Start, also must meet minimum requirements, if paid with federal funds.)

Effective school year 2019–20 all K-12 paraeducators (paraprofessionals) must meet the following minimum employment requirements:

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

In addition, a paraeducator must meet one or more of the following:

- Have received a qualifying score on the Education Testing Service paraeducator assessment (461); or
- Hold an associate degree or higher from an accredited college or university; or
- Have earned seventy-two quarter credits or forty-eight semester credits at the one hundred level or higher at an accredited college or university; or
- Have completed an apprenticeship as a paraeducator, in a program registered with the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council.