



ESEA in focus: Teacher & Paraprofessional Quality

For Teachers

“Highly qualified” means teachers must be fully certified or licensed under state law and demonstrate competency.

- Beginning with 2002-03 school year, each district or BOCES receiving Title I funds must ensure that all teachers hired and teaching in a program supported with Title I funds are “highly qualified.”
 - Each state must develop a plan to ensure that all teachers (not just Title I teachers) teaching “core academic subjects” are highly qualified no later than the end of the 2005-06 school year.
 - Competency can be shown with an academic major in area of assignment **OR** passing a test in the subject area **OR** demonstrating high level of competence through a uniform, objective, statewide standard.
 - All new teachers entering the profession must take a written test.
 - Districts or BOCES that receive Title I funds must use at least 5% for professional development to help teachers become “highly qualified” by the end of the 2005-06 school year. States and districts (or BOCES) can also spend Title II teacher quality funds for this purpose.
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For paraprofessionals

For new Title I paraprofessionals “highly qualified” means either completing an associate degree **OR** completing two years of post-secondary education **OR** demonstrating knowledge of reading, writing, math, and the ability to assist in instructing these subjects through a state or local academic assessment. Existing Title I paraprofessionals must meet one of these requirements within 4 years. Paraprofessionals who conduct parental involvement activities or translate are exempt from the requirement to be highly qualified. Districts may use federal funds to help paraprofessionals meet the new ESEA requirements.

ESEA limits the duties that paraprofessionals may perform to:

- Tutoring outside normal class time
- Assisting with classroom management
- Assisting in a computer laboratory, library, or media center
- Translating
- Providing instruction under the direct supervision of a teacher
- Conducting parental involvement activities

Title I paraprofessionals may perform certain functions outside those listed above for the benefit of all students, such as lunchroom, playground, or study hall monitoring. However, the portion of the time they spend on these general duties may not exceed that of a non-Title I paraprofessional at the same school.

For more information

www.coloradoea.org Colorado Education Association
www.cde.state.co.us Colorado State Department of Education -- click on the NCLB icon
www.ed.gov U.S. Department of Education

Contact your UniServ Director to arrange for a presentation on ESEA in your local.