NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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TITLE I, PART A PARAPROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

NCLB requires that all instructional paraprofessionals supported by Title I, Part A funds have the following:

- A high school diploma or GED, and
- Completion of two years of college, or
- An Associate degree, or
- Demonstrated, through a format state or local assessment:
    - Knowledge of an ability to assist reading readiness, writing readiness, and mathematics readiness, as appropriate.
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This requirement includes all paraprofessionals in Title I schoolwide programs and paraprofessionals paid with Title I funds in targeted assistance programs who provide instructional support. It does not include paraprofessionals who work in food services, supervise cafeteria or playground activities, provide personal care services, non- instructional computer assistance services, or perform in similar positions. NCLB excludes paraprofessionals who are proficient in English and a language other than English and act solely as translators and paraprofessionals with duties that consist solely of conducting parental involvement activities. These paraprofessionals must only have a secondary school diploma or its equivalent.

In December 2002, the Nebraska NCLB Committee of Practitioners approved the recommendations made by a statewide task force regarding paraprofessional requirements:

- Two years of college shall mean 48 semester hours of college credit or equivalent.
    - Quarter hours are equivalent to 2/3 Semester Credit Hour.
    - The following is taken from Rule 41.

Semester Credit Hours	Quarter Credit Hours
15 clock hours of lecture	10 hours of lecture
30 clock hours of laboratory	20 clock hours of laboratory
45 clock hours of externship	30 clock hours of externship

- Any Associate degree from an accredited college will be acceptable, regardless of the subject area, since all associate degrees require some courses that cover reading, writing and mathematics.
- State approved assessments are below.
- Nebraska utilized a standards setting process for each of the state-approved assessments to establish a state passing score or proficiency level. Districts have the option to set expectations higher than the Proficiency levels established by the state.

NCLB provides for the utilization of the local academic assessment of the knowledge and ability of the paraprofessional to assist in instructing reading/language arts, writing and mathematics; however, the recommendation of the Committee of Practitioners was that Nebraska not pursue this option. Locally developed assessments would not meet high standards of validity, reliability, documentation, and be equivalent to reading, mathematics, and writing expectations on the 2nd year college program. The Committee generally felt that assessment options already available would be considerably more cost effective and legally defensible.

The following assessments have been approved as meeting Title I qualifications for paraprofessionals in Nebraska.

- ParaPro (Educational Testing Services-ETS)
  - Passing score: 456
  - http://www.ets.org/parapro/

- Para Educator Learning Network (Master Teacher)
  - Passing score: 70% on the comprehensive exam
  - http://www.masterteacher.com/ParaEducator-PD-Now

- Workkeys (ACT)
  - Passing score: Writing-4; Reading-4; Math-3; Instructional Skills Inventory-150
  - http://www.act.org/workkeys/access/

- Project Para (UNL)
  - Composite Passing Score: 116
  - http://para.unl.edu

Paraprofessionals providing services in an **Early Childhood** program must also meet the requirements of **Rule 11**. Information regarding Rule 11 can be found at the following link:
https://www.education.ne.gov/legal/webrulespdf/CLEANRule11_2015.pdf