
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1015

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Santos, Ybarra, Bergquist, Stonier, Leavitt, Rude, Jacobsen, Simmons, Reed, Lekanoff, Goodman, Pollet, Ortiz-Self, Callan, Doglio, Reeves, Tharinger, Wylie, Paul, Thai, Springer, and Ormsby; by request of Professional Educator Standards Board)

1 AN ACT Relating to minimum employment requirements for
2 paraeducators; and amending RCW 28A.413.040 and 28A.413.030.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.413.040 and 2018 c 153 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1)(a) A person working as a paraeducator for a school district
7 before or during the 2017-18 school year must meet the requirements
8 of subsection (2) of this section by the date of hire for the 2019-20
9 school year or any subsequent school year.

10 (b) A person who has not previously worked as a paraeducator for
11 a school district must meet the requirements of subsection (2) of
12 this section by the date of hire for the 2018-19 school year or any
13 subsequent school year.

14 (2) The minimum employment requirements for paraeducators are as
15 provided in this subsection. A paraeducator must:

16 (a) Be at least ~~((eighteen))~~ 18 years of age and hold a high
17 school diploma or its equivalent; and

18 (b) Meet one of the following requirements:

19 (i) Have received a passing ~~((grade))~~ score on ~~((the education~~
20 ~~testing service paraeducator assessment))~~ one of the assessments
21 approved by the board; ~~((or))~~

- 1 (ii) Hold an associate of arts degree; (~~(e)~~)
2 (iii) Have earned (~~(seventy-two)~~) 72 quarter credits or (~~(forty-~~
3 ~~eight)~~) 48 semester credits at an institution of higher education; or
4 (iv) Have completed a registered apprenticeship program.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.413.030 and 2017 c 237 s 4 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The paraeducator board has the following powers and duties:

8 (a) Based on the recommendations of the paraeducator work group
9 established in chapter 136, Laws of 2014, adopt: (i) Minimum
10 employment requirements for paraeducators, as described in RCW
11 28A.413.040; and (ii) paraeducator standards of practice, as
12 described in RCW 28A.413.050;

13 (b) Adopt one or more assessments that meet a rigorous standard
14 of quality and can be used to demonstrate knowledge of, and the
15 ability to assist in, instruction in reading, writing, and
16 mathematics, as well as set a passing score for each assessment
17 adopted. The board may develop assessments to meet the requirement of
18 this subsection (1)(b);

19 (c) Establish requirements and policies for a general
20 paraeducator certificate, as described in RCW 28A.413.070;

21 (~~(e)~~) (d) Based on the recommendations of the paraeducator work
22 group established in chapter 136, Laws of 2014, establish
23 requirements and policies for subject matter certificates in English
24 language learner and special education, as described in RCW
25 28A.413.080;

26 (~~(d)~~) (e) Based on the recommendations of the paraeducator work
27 group established in chapter 136, Laws of 2014, establish
28 requirements and policies for an advanced paraeducator certificate,
29 as described in RCW 28A.413.090;

30 (~~(e)~~) (f) By September 1, 2018, approve, and develop if
31 necessary, courses required to meet the provisions of this chapter,
32 where the courses are offered in a variety of means that will limit
33 cost and improve access;

34 (~~(f)~~) (g) Make policy recommendations, as necessary, for a
35 paraeducator career ladder that will increase opportunities for
36 paraeducator advancement through advanced education, professional
37 learning, and increased instructional responsibility;

1 (~~(g)~~) (h) Collaborate with the office of the superintendent of
2 public instruction to adapt the electronic educator certification
3 process to include paraeducator certificates; and

4 (~~(h)~~) (i) Adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that are
5 necessary for the effective and efficient implementation of this
6 chapter.

7 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall act as the
8 administrator of any such rules and have the power to issue any
9 paraeducator certificates and revoke the same in accordance with
10 board rules.

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