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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1115

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2017 Regular Session

**State of Washington**                      **65th Legislature**                      **2017 Regular Session**

**By** House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Bergquist, Muri, Ortiz-Self, Harris, Stanford, Stambaugh, Gregerson, and Kilduff)

READ FIRST TIME 02/13/17.

1            AN ACT Relating to paraeducators; amending RCW 28A.150.203,  
2 28A.410.062, 28A.630.400, 28A.660.040, 28A.660.042, and 28B.50.891;  
3 adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; adding a new section to  
4 chapter 28A.410 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 28A RCW; repealing  
5 RCW 28A.415.310; and providing expiration dates.

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

7            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    INTENT. Paraeducators provide the majority  
8 of instruction in programs designed by the legislature to reduce the  
9 opportunity gap. By setting common statewide standards, requiring  
10 training in the standards, and offering career development for  
11 paraeducators, as well as training for teachers and principals who  
12 work with paraeducators, students in these programs have a better  
13 chance of succeeding.

14           NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    DEFINITIONS. The definitions in this  
15 section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly  
16 requires otherwise.

17           (1) "Advanced paraeducator certificate" means a credential earned  
18 by a paraeducator who may have the following duties: Assisting in  
19 highly impacted classrooms, assisting in specialized instructional  
20 support and instructional technology applications, mentoring and

1 coaching other paraeducators, and acting as a short-term emergency  
2 substitute teacher.

3 (2) "Board" means the paraeducator board established in section 3  
4 of this act.

5 (3) "English language learner programs" means the English  
6 language learners program, the transitional bilingual instruction  
7 program, and the federal limited English proficiency program.

8 (4) "English language learner certificate" means a credential  
9 earned by a paraeducator working with students in English language  
10 learner programs.

11 (5) "Paraeducator" means a classified public school or school  
12 district employee who works under the supervision of a certificated  
13 or licensed staff member to support and assist in providing  
14 instructional and other services to students and their families.  
15 Paraeducators are not considered certificated instructional staff as  
16 that term and its meaning are used in this title.

17 (6) "Special education certificate" means a credential earned by  
18 a paraeducator working with students in special education programs.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** PARAEDUCATOR BOARD CREATED. (1)(a) The  
20 paraeducator board is created, consisting of nine members to be  
21 appointed to four-year terms.

22 (b) Vacancies on the board must be filled by appointment or  
23 reappointment as described in subsection (2) of this section to terms  
24 of four years.

25 (c) No person may serve as a member of the board for more than  
26 two consecutive full four-year terms.

27 (d) The governor must biennially appoint the chair of the board.  
28 No board member may serve as chair for more than four consecutive  
29 years.

30 (2) Appointments to the board must be made as follows, subject to  
31 confirmation by the senate:

32 (a) The superintendent of public instruction shall appoint a  
33 basic education paraeducator, a special education paraeducator, an  
34 English language learner paraeducator, a teacher, a principal, and a  
35 representative of the office of the superintendent of public  
36 instruction;

37 (b) The Washington state parent teacher association shall appoint  
38 a parent whose child receives instructional support from a  
39 paraeducator;

1 (c) The state board for community and technical colleges shall  
2 appoint a representative of the community and technical college  
3 system; and

4 (d) The student achievement council shall appoint a  
5 representative of a four-year institution of higher education as  
6 defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

7 (3) The professional educator standards board shall administer  
8 the board.

9 (4) Each member of the board must be compensated in accordance  
10 with RCW 43.03.240 and must be reimbursed for travel expenses  
11 incurred in carrying out the duties of the board in accordance with  
12 RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

13 (5) Members of the board may create informal advisory groups as  
14 needed to inform the board's work.

15 (6) The governor may remove a member of the board for neglect of  
16 duty, misconduct, malfeasance or misfeasance in office, or for  
17 incompetency or unprofessional conduct as defined in chapter 18.130  
18 RCW. In such a case, the governor shall file with the secretary of  
19 state a statement of the causes for and the order of removal from the  
20 board, and the secretary of state shall send a certified copy of the  
21 statement of causes and order of removal to the last known post  
22 office address of the member.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** POWERS AND DUTIES OF PARAEducATOR BOARD.

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

25 (a) Based on the recommendations of the paraeducator work group  
26 established in chapter 136, Laws of 2014, adopt: (i) Minimum  
27 employment requirements for paraeducators, as described in section 5  
28 of this act; and (ii) paraeducator standards of practice, as  
29 described in section 6 of this act;

30 (b) Establish requirements and policies for a general  
31 paraeducator certificate, as described in section 8 of this act;

32 (c) Based on the recommendations of the paraeducator work group  
33 established in chapter 136, Laws of 2014, establish requirements and  
34 policies for subject matter certificates in English language learner  
35 and special education, as described in section 9 of this act;

36 (d) Based on the recommendations of the paraeducator work group  
37 established in chapter 136, Laws of 2014, establish requirements and  
38 policies for an advanced paraeducator certificate, as described in  
39 section 10 of this act;

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

5 (f) Make policy recommendations, as necessary, for a paraeducator  
6 career ladder that will increase opportunities for paraeducator  
7 advancement through advanced education, professional learning, and  
8 increased instructional responsibility;

9 (g) Collaborate with the office of the superintendent of public  
10 instruction to adapt the electronic educator certification process to  
11 include paraeducator certificates; and

12 (h) Adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that are necessary for  
13 the effective and efficient implementation of this chapter.

14 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall act as the  
15 administrator of any such rules and have the power to issue any  
16 paraeducator certificates and revoke the same in accordance with  
17 board rules.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** PARAEDUCATOR MINIMUM EMPLOYMENT  
19 REQUIREMENTS. Effective September 1, 2018, the minimum employment  
20 requirements for paraeducators are as provided in this section. The  
21 paraeducator must:

22 (1) Be at least eighteen years of age and hold a high school  
23 diploma or its equivalent; and

24 (2)(a) Have received a passing grade on the education testing  
25 service paraeducator assessment; or

26 (b) Hold an associate of arts degree; or

27 (c) Have earned seventy-two quarter credits or forty-eight  
28 semester credits at an institution of higher education; or

29 (d) Have completed a registered apprenticeship program.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** PARAEDUCATOR STANDARDS OF PRACTICE. The  
31 board shall adopt state standards of practice for paraeducators that  
32 are based on the recommendations of the paraeducator work group  
33 established in chapter 136, Laws of 2014. These standards must  
34 include:

35 (1) Supporting instructional opportunities;

36 (2) Demonstrating professionalism and ethical practices;

37 (3) Supporting a positive and safe learning environment;

1 (4) Communicating effectively and participating in the team  
2 process; and

3 (5) Demonstrating cultural competency aligned with standards  
4 developed by the professional educator standards board under RCW  
5 28A.410.270.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** FUNDAMENTAL COURSE OF STUDY. (1) Subject  
7 to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific  
8 purpose, beginning September 1, 2019, school districts must provide a  
9 four-day fundamental course of study on the state standards of  
10 practice, as defined by the board, to paraeducators who have not  
11 completed the course, either in the district or in another district  
12 within the state. School districts must use best efforts to provide  
13 the fundamental course of study before the paraeducator begins to  
14 work with students and their families, and at a minimum by the  
15 deadlines provided in subsection (2) of this section.

16 (2) School districts must provide the fundamental course of study  
17 required in subsection (1) of this section as follows:

18 (a) For paraeducators hired on or before September 1st, by  
19 September 30th of that year, regardless of the size of the district;  
20 and

21 (b) For paraeducators hired after September 1st:

22 (i) For districts with ten thousand or more students, within four  
23 months of the date of hire; and

24 (ii) For districts with fewer than ten thousand students, no  
25 later than September 1st of the following year.

26 (3) School districts may collaborate with other school districts  
27 or educational service districts to meet the requirements of this  
28 section.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** GENERAL PARAEDUCATOR CERTIFICATE. (1)(a)  
30 Paraeducators may become eligible for a general paraeducator  
31 certificate by completing the four-day fundamental course of study,  
32 as required under section 7 of this act, and an additional ten days  
33 of general courses, as defined by the board, on the state  
34 paraeducator standards of practice, described in section 6 of this  
35 act.

36 (b) Paraeducators are not required to meet the general  
37 paraeducator certificate requirements under this subsection (1)

1 unless amounts are appropriated for the specific purposes of  
2 subsection (2) of this section and section 7 of this act.

3 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
4 specific purpose, beginning September 1, 2019, school districts must:

5 (a) Provide paraeducators with general courses on the state  
6 paraeducator standards of practice; and

7 (b) Ensure all paraeducators employed by the district meet the  
8 general certification requirements of this section within three years  
9 of completing the four-day fundamental course of study.

10 (3) The general paraeducator certificate does not expire.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** PARAEDUCATOR SUBJECT MATTER CERTIFICATES.

12 (1) The board shall adopt requirements and policies for paraeducator  
13 subject matter certificates in special education and in English  
14 language learner that are based on the recommendations of the  
15 paraeducator work group established in chapter 136, Laws of 2014.

16 (2) The rules adopted by the board must include the following  
17 requirements:

18 (a) A subject matter certificate is not a prerequisite for a  
19 paraeducator working in any program;

20 (b) Paraeducators may become eligible for a subject matter  
21 certificate by completing twenty hours of professional development in  
22 the subject area of the certificate; and

23 (c) Subject matter certificates expire after five years.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** ADVANCED PARAEDUCATOR CERTIFICATE. (1)

25 The board shall adopt requirements and policies for an advanced  
26 paraeducator certificate that are based on the recommendations of the  
27 paraeducator work group established in chapter 136, Laws of 2014.

28 (2) The rules adopted by the board must include the following  
29 requirements:

30 (a) An advanced paraeducator certificate is not a prerequisite  
31 for a paraeducator working in any program;

32 (b) Paraeducators may become eligible for an advanced  
33 paraeducator certificate by completing seventy-five hours of  
34 professional development in topics related to the duties of an  
35 advanced paraeducator; and

36 (c) Advanced paraeducator certificates expire after five years.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 11.**    PILOTS. (1) By September 1, 2018, and  
2 subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific  
3 purpose, the board shall distribute grants to a diverse set of school  
4 districts that volunteer to pilot the state paraeducator standards of  
5 practice, the paraeducator certificates, and the courses described in  
6 this chapter.

7        (2) By September 1, 2019, the volunteer districts must report to  
8 the board with the outcomes of the pilot and any recommendations for  
9 implementing the paraeducator standards of practice, paraeducator  
10 certificates, and courses statewide. The outcomes reported must  
11 include:

12        (a) An analysis of the costs to the district to implement the  
13 state standards of practice by making available the required four-day  
14 fundamental course of study;

15        (b) The number of paraeducators who completed the course of study  
16 in the state standards of practice;

17        (c) The number of paraeducators who earned an advanced  
18 paraeducator certificate, or a special education or English language  
19 learner certificate;

20        (d) Any cost to the district and the paraeducator to earn a  
21 certificate; and

22        (e) The impact on the size and assignment of the paraeducator  
23 workforce as a result of the pilot.

24        (3) By November 1, 2019, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,  
25 the board shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of the  
26 legislature that summarizes the outcomes of the pilots and recommends  
27 any statutory changes necessary to improve the statewide standards of  
28 practice, paraeducator certificate requirements, and courses of study  
29 necessary to meet these standards and requirements, among other  
30 things.

31        (4) This section expires July 1, 2020.

32        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 12.**    STUDY ON EFFECTIVENESS OF PARAEDUCATORS.

33 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
34 specific purpose, the Washington state institute for public policy  
35 shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of paraeducators in  
36 improving student outcomes in Washington state. The study must  
37 examine variation in the use of paraeducators across public schools  
38 and school districts and analyze whether and the extent that any  
39 differences in students' academic progress can be attributed to the

1 use of paraeducators. The office of the superintendent of public  
2 instruction and the education data center shall provide the data  
3 necessary to conduct the analysis. The study must also include a  
4 review of the national research literature on the effectiveness of  
5 paraeducators in improving student outcomes.

6 (2) By December 15, 2017, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,  
7 the institute must submit a final report to the appropriate  
8 committees of the legislature.

9 (3) This section expires July 1, 2020.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING. (1) The  
13 superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with the  
14 paraeducator board created in section 3 of this act and the  
15 professional educator standards board, shall design a training  
16 program for teachers and administrators as it relates to their role  
17 working with paraeducators. Teacher training must include how to  
18 direct a paraeducator working with students in the paraeducators'  
19 classroom. Administrator training must include how to supervise and  
20 evaluate paraeducators.

21 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
22 specific purpose, the training program designed under subsection (1)  
23 of this section must be made available to public schools, school  
24 districts, and educational service districts.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410  
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR PREPARATION. The professional educator  
28 standards board, in consultation with the paraeducator board created  
29 in section 3 of this act and the office of the superintendent of  
30 public instruction, shall incorporate into the content required to  
31 complete a professional educator standards board-approved teacher or  
32 administrator preparation program the following:

33 (1) For teachers, information on how to direct a paraeducator  
34 working with students in the paraeducators' classroom; and

35 (2) For administrators, information on how to supervise and  
36 evaluate paraeducators.



1       **Sec. 15.** RCW 28A.150.203 and 2009 c 548 s 102 are each amended  
2 to read as follows:

3       CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE MEANS PARAEDUCATOR. The definitions in this  
4 section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly  
5 requires otherwise.

6       (1) "Basic education goal" means the student learning goals and  
7 the student knowledge and skills described under RCW 28A.150.210.

8       (2) "Certificated administrative staff" means all those persons  
9 who are chief executive officers, chief administrative officers,  
10 confidential employees, supervisors, principals, or assistant  
11 principals within the meaning of RCW 41.59.020(4).

12       (3) "Certificated employee" as used in this chapter and RCW  
13 28A.195.010, 28A.405.100, 28A.405.210, 28A.405.240, 28A.405.250,  
14 28A.405.300 through 28A.405.380, and chapter 41.59 RCW, means those  
15 persons who hold certificates as authorized by rule of the Washington  
16 professional educator standards board.

17       (4) "Certificated instructional staff" means those persons  
18 employed by a school district who are nonsupervisory certificated  
19 employees within the meaning of RCW 41.59.020(8), except for  
20 paraeducators.

21       (5) "Class size" means an instructional grouping of students  
22 where, on average, the ratio of students to teacher is the number  
23 specified.

24       (6) "Classified employee" means a person who is employed as a  
25 paraeducator and a person who does not hold a professional education  
26 certificate or is employed in a position that does not require such a  
27 certificate.

28       (7) "Classroom teacher" means a person who holds a professional  
29 education certificate and is employed in a position for which such  
30 certificate is required whose primary duty is the daily educational  
31 instruction of students. In exceptional cases, people of unusual  
32 competence but without certification may teach students so long as a  
33 certificated person exercises general supervision, but the hiring of  
34 such classified employees shall not occur during a labor dispute, and  
35 such classified employees shall not be hired to replace certificated  
36 employees during a labor dispute.

37       (8) "Instructional program of basic education" means the minimum  
38 program required to be provided by school districts and includes  
39 instructional hour requirements and other components under RCW  
40 28A.150.220.

1 (9) "Program of basic education" means the overall program under  
2 RCW 28A.150.200 and deemed by the legislature to comply with the  
3 requirements of Article IX, section 1 of the state Constitution.

4 (10) "School day" means each day of the school year on which  
5 pupils enrolled in the common schools of a school district are  
6 engaged in academic and career and technical instruction planned by  
7 and under the direction of the school.

8 (11) "School year" includes the minimum number of school days  
9 required under RCW 28A.150.220 and begins on the first day of  
10 September and ends with the last day of August, except that any  
11 school district may elect to commence the annual school term in the  
12 month of August of any calendar year and in such case the operation  
13 of a school district for such period in August shall be credited by  
14 the superintendent of public instruction to the succeeding school  
15 year for the purpose of the allocation and distribution of state  
16 funds for the support of such school district.

17 (12) "Teacher planning period" means a period of a school day as  
18 determined by the administration and board of (~~the~~) directors of  
19 the district that may be used by teachers for instruction-related  
20 activities including but not limited to preparing instructional  
21 materials; reviewing student performance; recording student data;  
22 consulting with other teachers, instructional assistants, mentors,  
23 instructional coaches, administrators, and parents; or participating  
24 in professional development.

25 **Sec. 16.** RCW 28A.410.062 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 23 s 1 are each  
26 amended to read as follows:

27 PARAEDUCATOR CERTIFICATE FEES. (1) The legislature finds that the  
28 current economic environment requires that the state, when  
29 appropriate, charge for some of the services provided directly to the  
30 users of those services. The office of the superintendent of public  
31 instruction is currently supported with state funds to process  
32 certification fees. In addition, the legislature finds that the  
33 processing of certifications should be moved to an online system that  
34 allows educators to manage their certifications and provides better  
35 information to policymakers. The legislature intends to assess a  
36 certification processing fee to eliminate state-funded support of the  
37 cost to issue educator certificates.

38 (2) In addition to the certification fee established under RCW  
39 28A.410.060 for certificated instructional staff as defined in RCW

1 28A.150.203, the superintendent of public instruction shall charge an  
2 application processing fee for initial educator certificates and  
3 subsequent actions, and paraeducator certificates and subsequent  
4 actions. The superintendent of public instruction shall establish the  
5 amount of the fee by rule under chapter 34.05 RCW. The superintendent  
6 shall set the fee at a sufficient level to defray the costs of  
7 administering the educator certification program under RCW  
8 28A.300.040(9) and the paraeducator certificate program under the  
9 chapter created in section 21 of this act. Revenue generated through  
10 the processing fee shall be deposited in the educator certification  
11 processing account.

12 (3) The educator certification processing account is established  
13 in the custody of the state treasurer. The superintendent of public  
14 instruction shall deposit in the account all moneys received from the  
15 fees collected in subsection (2) of this section. Moneys in the  
16 account may be spent only for the processing of educator certificates  
17 and subsequent actions and paraeducator certificates and subsequent  
18 actions. Disbursements from the account shall be on authorization of  
19 the superintendent of public instruction or the superintendent's  
20 designee. The account is subject to the allotment procedure provided  
21 under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for  
22 disbursements.

23 **Sec. 17.** RCW 28A.630.400 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 132 are each  
24 amended to read as follows:

25 PARAEDUCATOR ASSOCIATE OF ARTS. (1) The professional educator  
26 standards board and the state board for community and technical  
27 colleges, in consultation with the superintendent of public  
28 instruction, the state apprenticeship training council, and community  
29 colleges, shall adopt rules as necessary under chapter 34.05 RCW to  
30 implement the paraeducator associate of arts degree.

31 (2) As used in this section, a "paraeducator" is an individual  
32 who has completed an associate of arts degree for a paraeducator. The  
33 paraeducator may be hired by a school district to assist certificated  
34 instructional staff in the direct instruction of children in small  
35 and large groups, individualized instruction, testing of children,  
36 recordkeeping, and preparation of materials. The paraeducator shall  
37 work under the direction of instructional certificated staff.

38 (3)(a) The training program for a paraeducator associate of arts  
39 degree shall include, but is not limited to, the general requirements

1 for receipt of an associate of arts degree and training in the areas  
2 of introduction to childhood education, orientation to children with  
3 disabilities, fundamentals of childhood education, creative  
4 activities for children, instructional materials for children, fine  
5 art experiences for children, the psychology of learning,  
6 introduction to education, child health and safety, child development  
7 and guidance, first aid, and a practicum in a school setting.

8 (b) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
9 specific purpose, by September 1, 2018, the training program for a  
10 paraeducator associate of arts degree must incorporate the state  
11 paraeducator standards of practice adopted by the paraeducator board  
12 under section 6 of this act.

13 (4) Consideration shall be given to transferability of credit  
14 earned in this program to teacher preparation programs at colleges  
15 and universities.

16 **Sec. 18.** RCW 28A.660.040 and 2010 c 235 s 504 are each amended  
17 to read as follows:

18 TEACHER ALTERNATIVE ROUTE PROGRAMS FOR PARAEDUCATORS. Alternative  
19 route programs under this chapter shall operate one to four specific  
20 route programs. Successful completion of the program shall make a  
21 candidate eligible for residency teacher certification. The mentor of  
22 the teacher candidate at the school and the supervisor of the teacher  
23 candidate from the teacher preparation program must both agree that  
24 the teacher candidate has successfully completed the program.

25 (1) Alternative route programs operating route one programs shall  
26 enroll currently employed classified instructional employees with  
27 transferable associate degrees seeking residency teacher  
28 certification with (~~endorsements in special education, bilingual~~  
29 ~~education, or English as a second language~~) an endorsement in  
30 subject matter shortage areas, as defined by the professional  
31 educator standards board. It is anticipated that candidates enrolled  
32 in this route will complete both their baccalaureate degree and  
33 requirements for residency certification in two years or less,  
34 including a mentored internship to be completed in the final year. In  
35 addition, partnership programs shall uphold entry requirements for  
36 candidates that include:

37 (a) District or building validation of qualifications, including  
38 one year of successful student interaction and leadership as a  
39 classified instructional employee;

1 (b) Successful passage of the statewide basic skills exam; and  
2 (c) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness  
3 requirements adopted by rule for teachers.

4 (2) Alternative route programs operating route two programs shall  
5 enroll currently employed classified staff with baccalaureate degrees  
6 seeking residency teacher certification in subject matter shortage  
7 areas and areas with shortages due to geographic location. Candidates  
8 enrolled in this route must complete a mentored internship  
9 complemented by flexibly scheduled training and coursework offered at  
10 a local site, such as a school or educational service district, or  
11 online or via videoconference over the K-20 network, in collaboration  
12 with the partnership program's higher education partner. In addition,  
13 partnership grant programs shall uphold entry requirements for  
14 candidates that include:

15 (a) District or building validation of qualifications, including  
16 one year of successful student interaction and leadership as  
17 classified staff;

18 (b) A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited  
19 institution of higher education. The individual's college or  
20 university grade point average may be considered as a selection  
21 factor;

22 (c) Successful completion of the subject matter assessment  
23 required by RCW 28A.410.220(3);

24 (d) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness  
25 requirements adopted by rule for teachers; and

26 (e) Successful passage of the statewide basic skills exam.

27 (3) Alternative route programs seeking funds to operate route  
28 three programs shall enroll individuals with baccalaureate degrees,  
29 who are not employed in the district at the time of application. When  
30 selecting candidates for certification through route three, districts  
31 and approved preparation program providers shall give priority to  
32 individuals who are seeking residency teacher certification in  
33 subject matter shortage areas or shortages due to geographic  
34 locations. Cohorts of candidates for this route shall attend an  
35 intensive summer teaching academy, followed by a full year employed  
36 by a district in a mentored internship, followed, if necessary, by a  
37 second summer teaching academy. In addition, partnership programs  
38 shall uphold entry requirements for candidates that include:

1 (a) A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited  
2 institution of higher education. The individual's grade point average  
3 may be considered as a selection factor;

4 (b) Successful completion of the subject matter assessment  
5 required by RCW 28A.410.220(3);

6 (c) External validation of qualifications, including demonstrated  
7 successful experience with students or children, such as reference  
8 letters and letters of support from previous employers;

9 (d) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness  
10 requirements adopted by rule for teachers; and

11 (e) Successful passage of statewide basic skills exam.

12 (4) Alternative route programs operating route four programs  
13 shall enroll individuals with baccalaureate degrees, who are employed  
14 in the district at the time of application, or who hold conditional  
15 teaching certificates or emergency substitute certificates. Cohorts  
16 of candidates for this route shall attend an intensive summer  
17 teaching academy, followed by a full year employed by a district in a  
18 mentored internship. If employed on a conditional certificate, the  
19 intern may serve as the teacher of record, supported by a well-  
20 trained mentor. In addition, partnership programs shall uphold entry  
21 requirements for candidates that include:

22 (a) A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited  
23 institution of higher education. The individual's grade point average  
24 may be considered as a selection factor;

25 (b) Successful completion of the subject matter assessment  
26 required by RCW 28A.410.220(3);

27 (c) External validation of qualifications, including demonstrated  
28 successful experience with students or children, such as reference  
29 letters and letters of support from previous employers;

30 (d) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness  
31 requirements adopted by rule for teachers; and

32 (e) Successful passage of statewide basic skills exam.

33 (5) Applicants for alternative route programs who are eligible  
34 veterans or national guard members and who meet the entry  
35 requirements for the alternative route program for which application  
36 is made shall be given preference in admission.

37 **Sec. 19.** RCW 28A.660.042 and 2007 c 396 s 6 are each amended to  
38 read as follows:

1 PIPELINE FOR PARAEDUCATORS SCHOLARSHIP. (1) The pipeline for  
2 paraeducators conditional scholarship program is created.  
3 Participation is limited to paraeducators without a college degree  
4 who have at least three years of classroom experience. It is  
5 anticipated that candidates enrolled in this program will complete  
6 their associate of arts degree at a community and technical college  
7 in two years or less and become eligible for (~~a mathematics, special~~  
8 ~~education, or English as a second language endorsement~~) an  
9 endorsement in a subject matter shortage area, as defined by the  
10 professional educator standards board, via route one in the  
11 alternative routes to teacher certification program provided in this  
12 chapter.

13 (2) Entry requirements for candidates include district or  
14 building validation of qualifications, including three years of  
15 successful student interaction and leadership as a classified  
16 instructional employee.

17 **Sec. 20.** RCW 28B.50.891 and 2014 c 136 s 4 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 PARAEDUCATOR APPRENTICESHIP AND CERTIFICATE. Beginning with the  
20 2015-16 academic year, any community or technical college that offers  
21 an apprenticeship program or certificate program for paraeducators  
22 must provide candidates the opportunity to earn transferable course  
23 credits within the program. The programs must also incorporate the  
24 standards for cultural competence, including multicultural education  
25 and principles of language acquisition, developed by the professional  
26 educator standards board under RCW 28A.410.270. Subject to the  
27 availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, by  
28 September 1, 2018, the paraeducator apprenticeship and certificate  
29 programs must also incorporate the state paraeducator standards of  
30 practice adopted by the paraeducator board under section 6 of this  
31 act.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 21.** Sections 1 through 12 of this act  
33 constitute a new chapter in Title 28A RCW.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 22.** RCW 28A.415.310 (Paraprofessional  
35 training program) and 1993 c 336 s 408 are each repealed.

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