

State Requirements for Paraprofessional Approval (Effective June 1, 2004)

Except for designated special education paraprofessionals, paraprofessionals (teacher aides) must have a statement of approval from the Illinois State Board of Education based on **one** of the following:

- Completed 30 semester hours of college credit from a regionally accredited institution of higher education. Evidence is an official transcript, or
- Completed an approved Paraprofessional Educator Statewide Model Curriculum. Evidence is an Illinois Community College Board transcript or certificate of completion, or
- Passed the ETS Parapro Assessment, with 460 as the minimum passing score. Evidence is an official score report, or
- Passed the applicable ACT WorkKeys assessments (Applied Mathematics – 4, Reading for Information – 4, Writing – 3) and provided verification of satisfactory local performance assessment. Evidence is the “ACT “WorkKeys Proficiency Certificate for Teacher Assistants” and verification of satisfactory local performance assessment.

This requirement includes paraprofessionals providing instructional support for students with disabilities who were previously not required to have State approval. **However, paraprofessionals first employed in programs for students with disabilities on or before June 30, 2005, have until July 1, 2007, to meet the State requirement.** This does not change the Federal timeline for paraprofessionals providing instructional support in a program supported with Title 1, Part A funds.