Louisiana's HIGHLY QUALIFIED Definition
For Paraprofessionals

New PARAPROFESSIONALS

- Must have accomplished at least one of the following:
  a. Passed the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Para-Pro Assessment [ETS ParaPro Assessment (#0755) passing score: 450]; or
  b. Completed two years of full-time study (48 semester credit hours) from a state-approved or regionally accredited institution of higher education*; or
  c. Earned an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Applied Science degree from a state-approved or regionally accredited institution of higher education.

“Not-New” PARAPROFESSIONALS (by January 2006)

- Must have accomplished at least one of the following:
  a. Passed the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Para-Pro Assessment; [ETS ParaPro Assessment (#0755) passing score: 450]; or
  b. Completed two years of full-time study (48 semester credit hours) from a state-approved or regionally accredited institution of higher education*; or
  c. Earned an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Applied Science degree from a state-approved or regionally accredited institution of higher education; or
  d. Successfully completed the ACT, Inc., Work Keys skills assessments and on-the-job observation.

NOTE:

* Within the forty-eight semester hours, the paraprofessional must complete a total of 15 hours of general education requirements that include English Composition (3), English/Reading (6), and Mathematics (6). For the remaining 33 hours of coursework, acceptance of credit for a course shown on a transcript from an approved higher education institution is left to school district discretion in addressing the needs of the specific job. Discipline-specific electives may include as many as 12 hours of developmental (remedial) courses.
How do the new requirements apply to paraprofessionals in a Title I schoolwide program?
• The requirements apply to all paraprofessionals in a Title I schoolwide program, without regard to whether the position is funded with federal, state, or local funds. In a schoolwide program, Title I funds support all teachers and paraprofessionals.

How do the new requirements apply to paraprofessionals in a Title I targeted assistance program?
• In a Title I targeted assistance program, the requirements apply to all paraprofessionals who are paid with Title I, Part A funds but not to paraprofessionals paid with state or local funds in targeted assistance programs.

Must a paraprofessional who provides services to eligible private school students and is employed by an LEA with Title I, Part A funds meet the new requirements?
• Yes, such a paraprofessional must meet the requirements.

What are the requirements for the supervision of paraprofessionals?
• Paraprofessionals who provide instructional support must work under the direct supervision of a highly qualified teacher. A paraprofessional works under the direct supervision of a teacher if (1) the teacher prepares the lessons, plans the instructional support activities the paraprofessional carries out, and evaluates the achievement of the students with whom the paraprofessional is working, and (2) the paraprofessional works in close and frequent proximity with the teacher. As a result, a program staffed entirely by paraprofessionals is not permitted.

• Paraprofessionals hired by a third-party contractor to work in a Title I program must work under the direct supervision of a teacher. That teacher does not have to meet the teacher qualification requirements if he/she is also employed by the third party connection.

• A paraprofessional who provides services to eligible private school students and is employed by an LEA must be under the direct supervision of a highly qualified public school teacher throughout the duration of the services/program being offered.

Are funds available to help paraprofessionals in Title I schools meet the new requirements?
• Yes, funds are available through Title I, Part A at the district level. In addition, schools in School Improvement 2 and higher are required to reserve Title I funds for professional development. These funds may be used to help the paraprofessionals in these schools meet the highly qualified requirements. In addition, Title II, Part A, Title III, Part A, and Title V, Part A may be used to assist paraprofessionals in meeting the highly qualified requirements. Individuals needing financial assistance in meeting the requirements should contact their local district for more information.

--- Horace Mann

“Teachers teach because they care.
Teaching young people is what they do best.
It requires long hours, patience, and care.”