

Paraeducator Certificate Program FAQ

July 1, 2019

Welcome to the Paraeducator Certificate Program FAQ document. This document was created to answer questions related to the Paraeducator Certificate Program.

As this document is quite large, we recommend that you use either:

- The outline tab to the left;
- Direct search of a term (Ctrl + F if on a PC, or Cmd + F if on a Mac); or
- The shortcuts to a specific section in this document:
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If you are unable to find an answer to your question here, then please contact the Paraeducator Board at paraboard@k12.wa.us.

Foundation

What are the relevant RCW and WAC associated with this program?

[Chapter 28A.413 RCW](#) and [WAC 179](#) are the relevant laws and rules associated with this program. The RCW established the paraeducator minimum employment requirements, the standards of practice for paraeducators, the Paraeducator Board, and the Paraeducator Certificate Program. The Paraeducator Board further defines the RCW through rules in WAC 179.

Who is considered a paraeducator?

A paraeducator is defined as a “classified public school or school district employee who works under the supervision of a certificated or licensed staff member, from grades kindergarten to grade 12, to support and assist in providing instructional and other services to students and their families, including library assistants, and excluding bus monitors, lunchroom aides, and community service aides. Paraeducators are not considered certificated instructional staff.

[WAC 179-01-020](#)

Do the state requirements exclude preschool paraeducators?

Yes. During their review, the Paraeducator Board discussed including or excluding preschool from the definition of a paraeducator extensively. In the end, the Board voted to not include preschool in the definition. As such, paraeducators who only work in a preschool capacity are not required to meet the state minimum employment requirements or the Paraeducator Certificate Program.

What are the Washington state paraeducator minimum employment requirements?

The minimum employment requirements are as follows, a paraeducator must:

Be at least eighteen years of age and hold a high school diploma or its equivalent (for more detailed information on what is considered equivalent, please read our [additional resource](#); and

In addition, a paraeducator must meet one or more of the following:

1. Have received a qualifying score on the Education Testing Service paraeducator assessment as published by PESB; or
2. Hold an associate degree or higher from an accredited college or university; or

3. Have earned seventy-two quarter credits or forty-eight semester credits at the one hundred level or higher at an accredited college or university; or
4. Have completed an apprenticeship as a paraeducator, in a program registered with the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council.

[WAC 179-03-020](#)

What if a paraeducator cannot find and/or obtain a copy of their GED?

Paraeducators may submit an equivalent to a high school diploma or GED. For more detailed information, please read the [additional resource](#) document.

Do the minimum employment requirements and requirements of the Paraeducator Certificate Program apply to substitute paraeducators?

No. Substitute paraeducators are not required to meet state minimum employment requirements or requirements of the Paraeducator Certificate Program. However, school districts always have the option to require higher employment standards for their employees.

How do the state minimum employment requirements and Title I minimum employment requirements interact with one another?

School districts that receive Title I funds must make sure to meet Title I requirements, these supersede the state requirements. As an example, Title I funding has minimum employment requirements for substitute paraeducators.

Our paraeducators do not provide instructional support, do they need to meet the minimum employment requirements and training requirements?

A paraeducator who does not provide instructional support does not meet the definition of a paraeducator as defined in WAC 179-01-020. The Paraeducator Board recommends providing a new title to the role and making sure the duty and activity code in S-275 is recorded accurately.

If the individual does not provide instructional support in their role as a paraeducator, they are not required to meet employment and training requirements.

Is there a minimum number of hours a paraeducator must provide instructional support before they are required to meet employment and training requirements?

No. If a paraeducator provides any instructional support, the paraeducator must meet employment and training requirements.

Paraeducator Certificate Program (general information)

What are the Paraeducator Certificate Program requirements?

If funded, school districts must:

- Provide the Fundamental Course of Study to their paraeducators; and
- Ensure paraeducators attain the General Paraeducator Certificate within three years of completing the Fundamental Course of Study.

If funded, paraeducators must:

- Complete training on the Fundamental Course of Study provided by the school district; and
- Attain the General Paraeducator Certificate within three years of completing the Fundamental Course of Study.

[RCW 28A.413.060](#) and [RCW 28A.413.070](#)

I am a paraeducator with an AA, BA, MA, or Ph.D. degree or I am a paraeducator with multiple years of experience as a paraeducator, am I required to complete this training?

Yes. Prior experience and degree attainment does not defer training.

I am a paraeducator who was a former teacher, principal, or administrator, am I required to complete this training?

Yes. Prior experience and degree attainment does not defer training.

I am a paraeducator with a valid Title 181 certificate (e.g., teaching certificate), am I required to complete this training?

Paraeducators with a valid Title 181 certificate, pursuant to WAC 181-79A-140, are only required to complete the Fundamental Course of Study. Once the Fundamental Course of Study is complete, these paraeducators are considered to have met the General Paraeducator Certificate requirement. The paraeducator is responsible for completing filing requirements with the superintendent of public instruction to attain the certificate.

The exemption to the above are educators who only hold limited certificates, as described in chapter 181-77 WAC and WAC 181-79A-231. If a paraeducator only holds a limited certificate, the paraeducator must complete the requirements of the Paraeducator Certificate Program.

I am a paraeducator who works 1:1, is a temporary hire, or is a transition paraeducator, am I required to complete this training?

Yes. All paraeducators are required to receive/complete the training if funded by the Legislature.

When does the Paraeducator Certificate Program begin?

The Paraeducator Certificate Program begins July 1, 2019.

Professional development I completed before July 1, 2019 (or that as a school district we provided to paraeducators), will this count towards the Paraeducator Certificate Program?

No, July 1, 2019 is when school districts may begin to provide, and paraeducators may begin to train, on the Paraeducator Certificate Program.

The only exception to the above are for paraeducators who participated in the Paraeducator Pilot during school year 2018-19. These paraeducators have completed the Fundamental Course of Study and the chosen pilot certificate(s).

If there is no funding, do the Paraeducator Certificate Program requirements go into effect?

They do not. The structure is still in place, but school districts are not required to provide training on, and paraeducators are not required to attain, the Fundamental Course of Study and General Paraeducator Certificate. School districts and paraeducators may work towards the Fundamental Course of Study and General Paraeducator Certificate if they choose to, however funding will not be provided by the state.

Does this training replace the special education recommended core competencies?

The core competencies are a recommendation and not a requirement in the state. That said, the knowledge and skill competencies of the paraeducator standards of practice and special education standards of practice do include the core competencies.

Is the training transferable from district to district in Washington?

Yes. It is the responsibility of the paraeducator, with the assistance of the school district, to file completion of the FCS and hours towards the certificates on e-cert. By filing, this allows for districts and paraeducators to track completed training.

Are the professional development hours we complete considered clock hours?

Yes. To maintain a common statewide system, the Paraeducator Board defined an hour of professional development towards the Paraeducator Certificate Program as a Continuing Education Credit Hour (i.e., “clock hour”).

[WAC 179-05-040](#)

When do we provide paraeducators the training?

This is a school district decision. During the Paraeducator Pilot, grantees used early release, late start, parent-teacher days, after school time (evening and weekend), bargained professional development days, and the days immediately before and after the start/end of the school year.

Paraeducators are to be compensated for the training.

Is the Paraeducator Certificate Program training only for state funded paraeducators? What about local and federal?

This training is for all paraeducators who meet the definition of an instructional paraeducator, regardless if they are funded at the local, state, or federal level.

We have an 18-21 year old program, a Transition Outreach Program, or something similar. Do paraeducators serving these students need to meet the requirements?

Yes. These paraeducators are considered to be a part of the k-12 system, and as such have to meet the minimum employment requirements and go through the required training (if funded).

Is there a structure to the program?

Yes. A paraeducator must first complete the Fundamental Course of Study. Once this is complete, the paraeducator may complete hours towards the General Paraeducator Certificate or the Subject Matter Certificates. Once the General Paraeducator Certificate is complete, a paraeducator may attain the Advanced Paraeducator Certificate.

[WAC 179](#)

What is a clock hour?

“Clock hours”, a shorthand for Continuing Education Credit Hours, is defined in [WAC 181-85-030](#). This is the system of measurement for education professional

development in the state of Washington, i.e, a “unit of currency”. The Paraeducator Board has paired an hour of professional development in the Paraeducator Certificate Program to one clock hour. As this is the same system used by Title 181 certified staff, there is consistency throughout the continuing education system in Washington.

Is there a clock hour fee?

Some professional learning providers do have a clock hour fee. However, for the Fundamental Course of Study and the Subject Matter Certificates clock hours are provided for in WAC and no fees need to be charged. Note, this does not apply to tuition fees or recording fees which some providers charge.

[WAC 181-85-033](#)

How will paraeducators track their training?

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Certification Office has adapted “e-cert”, an online tool to track the completion of clock hours, to include paraeducators. It is the responsibility of the paraeducator, with the assistance of the school district, to file completion of the Fundamental Course of Study and training to meet the certificates through e-cert.

Will district administrators be able to log into e-cert and see the progress of paraeducators in our district?

Yes, to an extent. Once a paraeducator lists completion of the Fundamental Course of Study in e-cert this will start the requirement clock on the General Paraeducator Certificate, which is three years. School district administrators will be able to view a list of all the paraeducators in their district who have completed the Fundamental Course of Study and when the General Paraeducator Certificate must be completed (provided that funding by the legislature continues).

Is there a certificate processing fee?

Yes. [HB 1115 \(2017\)](#), which established the Paraeducator Certificate Program, states that certificate fees shall exist. As of the publication of this FAQ document, the value of these fees has yet to be determined. If you are reading this language in August 2019 or later, please notify paraboard@k12.wa.us and request an update.

Will paraeducators earn a higher salary as they progress in the Paraeducator Certificate Program?

This is a bargaining issue between paraeducators, school districts, and unions.

Is there an approved provider list for the Paraeducator Certificate Program?

Yes. The Program follows the same provider list approved by the Professional Educator Standards Board.

How many hours are in a day for the Paraeducator Certificate Program?

There are seven hours in a day.

Are there assessments to the certificates or the Fundamental Course of Study?

No. The Fundamental Course of Study and the certificates are trainings of completion, not assessment. There are no tests or grades.

Who keeps track of all of the training hours we provide to paraeducators in our district or that the paraeducators have completed?

This is the responsibility of the school district. When the Fundamental Course of Study is complete the paraeducator can notify e-cert. Likewise, when training is completed towards the certificates, the paraeducators can notify e-cert. E-cert will assist the school district, but it is not a catch all. The district is required to ensure that paraeducators in their district complete the Fundamental Course of Study and attain the General Paraeducator Certificate. To do this effectively, the district will have to track.

Fundamental Course of Study

What is the Fundamental Course of Study?

The Course is the foundational training to the Paraeducator Certificate Program that all paraeducators must receive, if funded, before the paraeducator begins to work with students and their families, or by certain deadlines.

The Course is a total of 4 days, which has been defined as 28 hours.

Is the Fundamental Course of Study required training?

The Fundamental Course of Study is only required training if funding is provided by the Legislature, and only for the number of days for which funding is provided to cover.

Is the Fundamental Course of Study based on standards of practice?

Yes. The Course is developed to meet the knowledge and skill requirements of the Paraeducator Standards of Practice. The standards are [found online](#).

Is there a curriculum or outline for the Fundamental Course of Study?

Yes. The Fundamental Course of Study is comprised of four learning areas, which contain 12 units total, and several learning objectives in each. The Course is developed to meet the knowledge and skill requirements of the Paraeducator Standards of Practice. The complete outline is [found online](#).

By when must the school district provide training on the Fundamental Course of Study to their paraeducators?

First, school districts must implement the Course only in school years for which state funding is explicitly appropriated for the Course and just for the number of days that are funded by the appropriation. Second, this answer is dependent on the hiring date of the paraeducator and as follows:

- Paraeducators hired for the 2018-19 school year must complete the training by September 1, 2020.
- Paraeducators not employed for the 2018-19 school year, but employed for the 2019-20 school year must complete the training by September 1, 2021.
 - Review the 2019-20 section of this FAQ for further details.
- Beginning September 1, 2021, school districts must provide the Course for paraeducators hired on or before September 1, by September 30 of that year, regardless of the size of the district.
- Beginning September 1, 2021, and beyond, school districts must provide the FCS for paraeducators hired after September 1:

- For districts with ten thousand or more students, within four months of the date of hire; and
- For districts with fewer than ten thousand students, no later than September 1st of the following year.

[RCW 28A.413.060](#)

Is there a crosswalk between the “Paraeducators: what we do matters” online course and the Fundamental Course of Study?

Yes. It is available [online](#).

Who teaches the Fundamental Course of Study? Does it have to be by some trained provider or can anyone in a district provide the instruction?

This is up to the school district. The only requirement is that the trainer must be proficient in the content area being trained.

I am a paraeducator, and I completed training that can help meet the Fundamental Course of Study a year ago, does this count?

No. All training prior to July 1, 2019 will not count towards the Paraeducator Certificate Program. The only exceptions are for paraeducators who participated in the Paraeducator Pilot.

Who must provide training on the Fundamental Course of Study?

If funded, it is the responsibility of the school district to provide training and ensure paraeducators complete the training. The school district may partner with providers to make sure this training is provided. Examples include community colleges, ESDs, unions, and more.

We already provide Safe Schools training, can this be used for part of the Fundamental Course of Study, and if so which part?

Yes. Safe Schools may be used to meet the unit titled “Emergency and Health Safety”, which is two hours of training.

We already provide Right Response training, can this be used for part of the Fundamental Course of Study, and if so which part?

Yes. Right Response (the full program) may be used to meet the unit titled “Behavior management strategies including de-escalation techniques”, which is two hours of training.

Is completing the Fundamental Course of Study a minimum employment requirement?

No. The minimum employment requirements are described above. The Course is in-service training provided by the school district or chosen provider.

Can the training on the Fundamental Course of Study provided by school district A be accepted by school district B?

Yes, as long as the paraeducator has fully completed a unit or the course and has documentation of such completion, an example of which can be found on the [PESB website](#).

If a paraeducator transfers districts prior to completing the Fundamental Course of Study, what happens?

It is the responsibility of the paraeducator and the school district, or another provider, to maintain records of training. The Paraeducator Board requires providers to give paraeducators written documentation, an example of which can be found on the [PESB website](#), of unit completion and of course completion. These documents will assist the new school district determine what training the paraeducator must still receive.

A paraeducator has completed the Fundamental Course of Study in school district A, and is transferring to school district B, does the paraeducator have to complete the Course again?

No. Once the paraeducator has completed the course, the course does not have to be completed again. A school district may still require the paraeducator to go through specific training, such as an orientation.

If a paraeducator is hired after the training days that the district has set up for the Fundamental Course of Study for the year, how will the paraeducator be able to obtain the required hours within the first year?

It is the responsibility of the school district to provide, and ensure that, the paraeducator meets the training by the mandated deadlines. As paraeducators are hired on an ongoing basis, it is recommended that the school district, or partnering provider, create a system, as best as possible, of ongoing training.

What is the online course “Paraeducators: what we do matters”? How can we use the course to help meet the requirements of the Fundamental Course of Study?

The online course “Paraeducators: what we do matters” was developed to assist paraeducators, school districts, and providers to meet a portion of the Fundamental

Course of Study. At most, the online course will meet 12 hours of the Fundamental Course of Study.

The Paraeducator Board recommends utilizing the online course as supplemental material, and encourages providers to train paraeducators through in-person, blended, or a hybrid approach. The Board does not recommend using online courses to meet the requirements of the Fundamental Course of Study.

The online course is free to access and is found on PESBs [Online Learning page](#).

Is there a crosswalk between the online course “Paraeducators: what we do matters” and the Fundamental Course of Study?

Yes. You may [find it online](#). You will notice that to complete 10 of the 12 units, a school district or provider will be required to provide additional training beyond the online course.

I would like to download and incorporate the online course “Paraeducators: what we do matters” into our own online course, is this possible?

Yes. You can download for free after submitting your user login information [online](#).

General Paraeducator Certificate

Is the General Paraeducator Certificate required training?

The General Paraeducator Certificate is only required training if funding is provided by the Legislature, and only for the number of days for which funding is provided to cover.

What does a paraeducator have to do to attain the General Paraeducator Certificate?

To attain the General Paraeducator Certificate, a paraeducator will have to complete 70 hours of training. These 70 hours are in addition to the training completed through the Fundamental Course of Study. The paraeducator must complete training that meets in-service education approval standards as written in chapter WAC 181-85. In essence, training that will support the instructional practice of a paraeducator will be accepted.

Does the General Paraeducator Certificate expire?

It does not. Once a paraeducator attains this certificate, it does not expire.

Does the General Paraeducator Certificate have a set curriculum or outline like the Fundamental Course of Study?

No. The only requirement is that the paraeducator must complete training that meets in-service education approval standards as written in chapter [WAC 181-85](#).

[WAC 179-11-040](#)

Who must provide training on the General Paraeducator Certificate?

If funded, it is the responsibility of the school district to provide training and ensure paraeducators complete the training. The school district may partner with providers to make sure this training is provided. Examples include community colleges, ESDs, unions, and more.

If funded, does the General Paraeducator Certificate have to be completed in three years or can it be finished in one year?

There are two requirements. The first, is to complete the number of hours each year that is funded. The second, is that the general certificate must be completed within three years of attaining the Fundamental Course of Study (if funded).

A school district may choose to provide hours above the minimum requirement and a paraeducator may choose to complete training on his or her own beyond the

minimum requirement as well. In doing so, a paraeducator could complete the general certificate ahead of the three year deadline.

If a paraeducator transfers districts prior to completing the General Paraeducator Certificate, what happens?

It is the responsibility of the paraeducator and the school district to maintain records of completed training. The paraeducator, with the assistance of the school district, is responsible for filing completed training on e-cert. This training “follows” the paraeducator throughout the state.

Are there online courses for the General Paraeducator Certificate like the Fundamental Course of Study?

No. However, you could complete the online courses for ELL and Special Education Subject Matter Certificates to meet up to 40 hours of the general certificate.

If a paraeducator, who has completed the Fundamental Course of Study and has started to attain hours towards the General Paraeducator Certificate, quits their job but then returns after a (6, 12, 24, etc.) month period, what happens to the three year requirement to attain the General Paraeducator Certificate?

A school district is required to provide training on the General Paraeducator Certificate as long as funding is provided by the legislature. If funding is provided, a school district must ensure the paraeducator attains the general certificate within three years of attaining the Fundamental Course of Study.

A school district is only required to ensure the above stated requirements for the years in which the paraeducator is employed in the district. For example, if a paraeducator completes 20 hours of training towards the general certificate in year one, and then leaves for a year, when the paraeducator returns they will have two years to complete the required training, instead of one.

If a school district hires a paraeducator who has already begun completing training towards the general certificate, the three year deadline on the district to ensure that the paraeducator meets the general certificate requirements begins on the date of hire.

Subject Matter Certificates

What are the Subject Matter Certificates?

There are two, the ELL Subject Matter Certificate and the Special Education Subject Matter Certificate. To attain these certificates, a paraeducator must complete 20 hours of training that directly meet the standards, learning objectives, and course outlines of the specific certificate. These certificates expire after five years.

Are Subject Matter Certificates based on standards of practice?

Yes. The Subject Matter Certificates are developed to meet the knowledge and skill requirements of ELL and Special Education Paraeducator Standards of Practices. The [ELL standards](#) and [Special Education standards](#) are found online.

Is there a curriculum or outline for the Subject Matter Certificates?

Yes. The Subject Matter Certificate courses were developed to meet the knowledge and skill requirements of ELL and Special Education Standards of Practice. The complete outlines for the [ELL course](#) and [Special Education course](#) are found online.

Are the Subject Matter Certificates required training?

No. The Subject Matter Certificates are not a prerequisite for a paraeducator working in any program.

That said, a school district may always require a higher standard.

[RCW 28A.413.080](#)

I am a paraeducator who works with special needs or ELL students, am I required to complete this training?

This is not a state requirement. That said, a school district may always require a higher standard.

I heard the Subject Matter Certificates can be embedded into the General Paraeducator Certificate, what does this mean?

This means the paraeducator may use the hours completed to meet one or both of the Subject Matter Certificates towards the General Paraeducator Certificate. This has two benefits. First, if the general certificate is funded, then school districts may use this funding for paraeducators to meet one or both of the Subject Matter Certificates, as long as they apply the completed certificate to the general (i.e., if the paraeducator has already completed the general certificate, funds cannot be used in this way). Second, this deducts hours from the general certificate. The completion of one certificate

deducts 20 hours and two will deduct 40 hours. A paraeducator will then only have to complete 30 hours to attain the General Paraeducator Certificate.

If a paraeducator completes the ELL and/or Special Education Subject Matter Certificates and uses the hours toward their General Paraeducator Certificate, does the general certificate expire when the Subject Matter Certificates expire(s)?

No. The General Paraeducator Certificate does not expire.

How do I renew my Subject Matter Certificate(s)?

To renew a Subject Matter Certificate paraeducators must complete 20 clock hours during the validity period of the certificate. The application for renewal must be submitted during the last year of the currently valid certificate.

Expired certificates may be renewed with completion of 20 clock hours within the previous five years from the date of the renewal application. Once this requirement is met, the paraeducator must present evidence to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

[WAC 179-05-030](#)

Are there online courses for the Subject Matter Certificates like the Fundamental Course of Study?

Yes. You may find these online courses, one for ELL and one for Special Education, on PESBs [Online Learning page](#).

Advanced Paraeducator Certificate

Is the Advanced Paraeducator Certificate based on standards of practice?

Yes. The Advanced Paraeducator Certificate was developed to meet the knowledge and skill requirements of the Advanced Paraeducator Standards of Practices. The [Advanced Paraeducator Certificate](#) standards are found online.

Is there a curriculum or outline for the Advanced Paraeducator Certificate?

No. The requirements are that the paraeducator must complete training that meets in-service education approval standards as written in chapter [WAC 181-85](#), and the paraeducator must complete 75 clock hours of training in topics related to the duties of an advanced paraeducator.

[WAC 179-17-040](#)

What are the duties of an advanced paraeducator?

The duties of an advanced paraeducator are as follow:

- Assisting in highly impacted classrooms;
- Assisting in specialized instructional support and instructional technology applications;
- Mentoring and coaching other paraeducators; and
- Acting as a short-term emergency substitute teacher only after the school district has consulted with the paraeducator and applied for the emergency substitute certificate as required in chapter 181-79A WAC.

[RCW 28A.413.010](#)

How do I renew my Advanced Paraeducator Certificate(s)?

To renew the Advanced Paraeducator Certificate, the paraeducators must complete 30 clock hours during the validity period of the certificate. The application for renewal must be submitted during the last year of the currently valid certificate.

Expired certificates may be renewed with completion of 30 clock hours within the previous five years from the date of the renewal application. Once this requirement is met, the paraeducator must present evidence to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

[WAC 179-05-030](#)

Are there online courses for the Advanced Paraeducator Certificate like the Fundamental Course of Study and Subject Matter Certificates?

No, there are not.

Requirements for the 2019-20 school year

What did the 2019-20 legislative session fund?

The legislature allocated \$12,001,000 for Washington school districts to provide two days of professional development (14 hours) to their paraeducators on the Fundamental Course of Study.

What are the requirements for school districts?

School districts are required to provide two days of professional development on the Fundamental Course of Study to their paraeducators during the 2019-20 school year.

In addition, all paraeducators are required to meet the minimum employment requirements established last year.

What are the requirements for paraeducators?

Your school district is required to provide two days of professional development to you on the Fundamental Course of Study. This training will take place during school year 2019-20. Please contact your school district administration to determine when this training will take place, and how it will be provided.

This funding decision was made during the 2019 legislative session. We ask that you please be patient with your school district administrators as they work through the details of implementation. As it is the responsibility of the school district to provide this training, we do not suggest trying to complete training requirements on your own without first contacting your school district.

Will paraeducators be compensated for professional development time?

Yes, paraeducators will be compensated for this professional development.

Does this mean the Fundamental Course of Study is only two days, and not four?

No. The Fundamental Course of Study is still four days of professional development. School districts are only required to provide training on two days of the Fundamental Course of Study during school year 2019-20. If funding continues, school districts will be required to provide the additional two days of training during the 2020-21 school year.

Important note: if funding is provided in school year 2020-21, school districts who hire paraeducators for the 2020-21 school year, who were not hired during the

2019-20 school year, will have to train these new paraeducators on the Fundamental Course of Study as well.

Can my school district provide the other two days of training to meet the full Fundamental Course of Study?

Absolutely. School districts are not prevented from providing the entire Fundamental Course of Study to their paraeducators. However, school districts will only receive reimbursement for two days of training, and not four.

Are school districts required to provide training on the General Paraeducator Certificate?

The legislature did not fund professional development for the General Paraeducator Certificate, so school districts are not required to provide this training during the 2019-20 school year. Similar to the Fundamental Course of Study, school districts are not prevented from providing this training to their paraeducators, however, they will not receive reimbursement for doing so.

In what setting should the Fundamental Course of Study training be provided?

One of the four days of Fundamental Course of Study training must be provided in person. The Paraeducator Board has defined a day as seven hours. School districts are not required to provide in-person training during a single sitting. A school district may choose to meet this requirement during school year 2019-20, school year 2020-21 (if funded), or split the time between the two.

The Paraeducator Board recommends school districts train their paraeducators through blended small group in-person training.

What does the funding cover?

The funding will cover the salary and benefits of paraeducators for two days of training. We are currently finalizing guidance regarding the funding level. If you are reading this language in August 2019 or later, please notify paraboard@k12.wa.us and request an update.

Do the funds contain reimbursement for room rentals, trainers, supplies, etc.?

The funding will cover the salary and benefits of paraeducators for two days of training. If the provided funding is greater than the salary and benefits of the paraeducator or if the salary and benefits are already covered in the bargaining agreement, then the school district may choose how to allocate the additional funds.

When will school districts be reimbursed for the two days of Fundamental Course of Study training provided to paraeducators?

The legislature has developed a reimbursement model for paraeducator funding. School districts are required to provide training during the 2019-20 school year, and then request reimbursement. School districts will be reimbursed as early as July 1, 2020. We are currently finalizing guidance regarding reimbursement. If you are reading this language in August 2019 or later, please notify paraboard@k12.wa.us and request an update.

Which parts of the 28 hour Fundamental Course of Study curriculum should be included in the two days (14 hours) of funded training?

This is a school district decision. The Paraeducator Board decided school districts should have flexibility on the training provided to paraeducators. However, the training must meet the standards, learning objectives, and requirements of the Fundamental Course of Study.

When can school districts begin to provide the Fundamental Course of Study training?

Training to meet the Fundamental Course of Study requirements can begin school year 2019-20, or as early as July 1, 2019. There is no grandfathering of training before this school year (i.e., training before July 1, 2019 will not count towards meetings this two day requirement. The only exception are paraeducators who participated in the Paraeducator Pilot during the 2018-19 school year).