

1     **R277. Education, Administration.**

2     **R277-324. Paraprofessional/Paraeducator Programs, Assignments, and**  
3     **Qualifications.**

4     **R277-324-1. Authority, Purpose, and Oversight Category.**

5             (1) This rule is authorized by:

6                 (a) Utah Constitution, Article X, Section 3 which vests general control and  
7                 supervision of public education in the Board;

8                 (b) Subsection 53E-3-401(4), which gives the Board authority to adopt rules in  
9                 accordance with its responsibilities; and

10                 (c) Subsection 53E-3-501(1)(a)(i), which requires the Board to establish rules  
11                 and minimum standards for the public schools regarding the qualification and  
12                 certification of educators and ancillary personnel who provide direct student services.

13             (2) The purpose of this rule is to designate appropriate assignments of  
14                 paraprofessionals and qualifications for paraprofessionals;

15             (3) This Rule R277-324 is categorized as Category 2 as described in Rule R277-  
16                 111.

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18     **R277-324-2. Definitions.**

19             (1)(a) "Paraprofessional" or "paraeducator" means an individual who performs a  
20                 non-instructional or instructional supporting role in various educational settings and may  
21                 provide support in a non-instructional role, such as providing parental or guardian  
22                 involvement activities or by providing support in a specific setting.

23             (b) A "paraprofessional" or "paraeducator" provides instructional support under  
24                 the direct supervision of a licensed educator or other licensed or certified professional  
25                 [as described in Section 53F-2-411].

26             (2) "Paraprofessional training" means professional development consistent with  
27                 or using information provided in this rule and the Utah Standards for Instructional  
28                 Paraeducators.

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30     **R277-324-3. Incorporation by Reference of Utah Standards for Instructional  
31     Paraeducators.**

32         (1) This rule incorporates by reference the Utah Standards for Instructional  
33     Paraeducators, dated December 4, 2018.

34         (2) A copy of the Utah Standards for Instructional Paraeducators is available at:  
35             (a) <https://schools.utah.gov/administrative/utah-standards-for-instructional-paraeducators>; and  
36             (b) the offices of the Utah State Board of Education, 250 E. 500 So., Salt Lake  
37     City, Utah, 84111.

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39     **R277-324-4. Appropriate Assignments or Duties for Paraprofessionals.**

40         (1) A paraprofessional may:

41             (a) upon completion of explicit training from appropriately licensed teachers or  
42     related service providers, provide individual or small group instructional assistance or  
43     tutoring to students as designed by an appropriately licensed teacher or related service  
44     provider during times when students would not otherwise receive instruction from an  
45     appropriately licensed teacher or related service provider;

46             (b) assist with classroom organization and management, such as organizing  
47     instructional or other materials;

48             (c) provide assistance with supplementary aids and services, program  
49     modifications, and support, such as assistive technology devices and services;

50             (d) conduct parental involvement activities;

51             (e) provide support in library or media centers; or

52             (f) provide supervision for students in non-instructional settings.

53         (2) A paraprofessional may not:

54             (a) be responsible for selecting or administering formal diagnostic or  
55     psychological instruments or for interpreting the results of those instruments if the  
56     paraprofessional's training, licensure, or other forms of certification do not align with the  
57     administration and interpretation requirements stated in an instrument's technical  
58     manual;

59 (b) be responsible for selecting programming or prescribing educational activities  
60 or materials for the students without the supervision and guidance of an appropriately  
61 licensed teacher or related service provider;

62 (c) be solely responsible for designing lesson plans;

63 (d) be assigned to implement elements of an IEP for a student with disabilities  
64 without direct training, supervision, and involvement from an appropriately licensed  
65 teacher or related service provider;

66 (e) employed to fulfill the responsibilities that may only be provided by an  
67 appropriately licensed and otherwise qualified teacher or related service provider; or

68 (f) perform nursing procedures or administer medications without appropriate  
69 supervision and training from an appropriately licensed health care professional.

70 (3) A licensed teacher shall:

71 (a) prepare a lesson and plan the instruction support activities to be carried out  
72 by a paraprofessional;

73 (b) evaluate the achievement of the students with whom a paraprofessional  
74 works; and

75 (c) provide the supervision and support to the paraprofessional that the teacher  
76 deems appropriate for the paraprofessional to work effectively in the paraprofessional's  
77 role and responsibilities.

78 (4) If a paraeducator is working in a special education program, the LEA shall  
79 appropriately train the special education teacher to supervise and direct the work of the  
80 paraeducator in the paraeducator's assigned roles and responsibilities.

81 (5) An LEA that employs a paraprofessional shall establish and maintain  
82 documentation of training provided by the LEA as required in:

83 (a) Subsection (1)(a); and

84 (b) for a paraprofessional who works with a student with a disability, Utah State  
85 Board of Education Special Education Rules Section IX.E, incorporated by reference  
86 into Rule R277-750.

88 **R277-324-5. Requirements for Paraprofessionals in Title I Schoolwide and  
89 Targeted Assistance Programs.**

90       (1) A paraprofessional hired to work in Title I schoolwide or targeted assistance  
91 programs supported by Title I funds shall be a high school graduate or equivalent and  
92 shall meet at least one of the following requirements:

93           (a) complete at least two years, or a minimum of 48 semester hours, at an  
94 accredited higher education institution;

95           (b) obtain an associate, or higher, degree from an accredited higher education  
96 institution; or

97           (c) satisfy a rigorous Board approved assessment that demonstrates:

98              (i) knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing, reading, writing, and  
99 mathematics; or

100              (ii) knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing, reading readiness,  
101 writing readiness, and mathematics readiness, as appropriate.

102           (2) A paraprofessional shall satisfactorily complete a criminal background check  
103 consistent with Section 53G-11-402 and Rule R277-316.

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105 **R277-324-6. Exceptions in Title I Schoolwide and Targeted Assistance Programs.**

106       The requirements in Section R277-324-4 do not apply to a paraprofessional with  
107 a high school diploma or equivalent solely providing:

108           (1) support through translator services;

109           (2) support as a parent engagement liaison; or

110           (3) personal care for students with disabilities.

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112 **R277-324-7. Use of Funds.**

113       An LEA may use Title I funds in addition to other funds available and identified by  
114 the LEA to support ongoing training and professional development for  
115 paraprofessionals.

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117 **KEY: paraprofessional qualifications**  
118 **Date of Last Change: October 8, 2024**  
119 **Notice of Continuation: September 9, 2021**  
120 **Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53E-3-401(4); 53E-**  
121 **3-501(1)(a)(i); [53E-2-411(4)]**  
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