

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Subject:

ACTION: Instructional Paraeducator Standards Update

Agenda item type:

Action Item

Recommended Action:

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board approve the proposed Utah Standards for Instructional Paraeducators.

Purpose of Memo:

Staff recommendation

Background:

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) has established Standards for Instructional Paraeducators, giving guidance on supervision and training. These Standards are incorporated in R277-324 with the intention of providing competency requirements for Utah's instructional paraeducators. The original Standards were created and adopted in 1985. The last review and revision occurred in 2015.

There is no state statute or Board rule regarding a timeline for updating the Standards. However, as shared with the Standards and Assessment Committee in October, during the revision of the USBE Paraeducator Manual, completed in 2023, LEA representatives and community partners expressed concerns about outdated language in the Standards. They also mentioned the need to expand the Standards and related competencies, including the addition of special education-specific competencies.

After sharing the feedback from our education partners with USBE leadership, our team collaborated with LEA representatives and community partners to review and draft updates to the Standards. We met every other week, beginning our work in January 2024. We have now shared the draft with the field and the Board for feedback. No recommendations for further changes have been made.

Contact:

Name:	Leah Voorhies	Tanya Semerad
Title:	Deputy Supt. of Student Achievement	Special Education Specialist
Phone:	801-538-7898	801-538-7726
Email:	leah.voorhies@schools.utah.gov	tanya.semerad@schools.utah.gov

Attachments:

1. Draft Utah Standards for Instructional Paraeducators Overview 010825
2. 2018 Utah Standards for Instructional Paraeducators
3. R277-324. Paraprofessional_Paraeducator...rams, Assignments, and Qualifications
4. Utah Instructional Paraeducator Standards Update Approval Process November 2025
5. 20251126 Paraeducator Standard Proposal Survey Response
6. Draft Utah Standards for Instructional Paraeducators (January 2026)

7. DRAFT 2 Paraeducator Standards 010826