

1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

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

4 **R277-324-1. Authority and 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~~  
16 ~~R277-111.]~~

17

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

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

31 (1) This rule incorporates by reference the Utah Standards for Instructional  
32 Paraeducators, dated December [~~4, 2018~~] 8, 2025.

33 (2) A copy of the Utah Standards for Instructional Paraeducators is available at:

34 (a) <https://schools.utah.gov/administrativerules/documentsincorporated>; and

35 (b) the offices of the Utah State Board of Education, 250 E. 500 So., Salt Lake  
36 City, Utah, 84111.

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

39 (1) A paraprofessional may:

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

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

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

49 (d) conduct parental involvement activities;

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

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

52 (2) A paraprofessional may not:

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

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

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

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

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

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

69 (3) A licensed teacher shall:

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

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

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

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

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

82 (a) Subsection (1)(a); and

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

86

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

103

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

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

107 (1) support through translator services;

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

109 (3) personal care for students with disabilities.

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

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

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Blue Text – Additions  
~~Red Text~~ – Deletions

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