

SB 5070 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Education

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** INTENT. Paraeducators provide the
4 majority of instruction in programs designed by the legislature to
5 reduce the opportunity gap. By setting common statewide standards,
6 requiring training in the standards, and offering career development
7 for paraeducators, as well as training for teachers and principals
8 who work with paraeducators, students in these programs have a better
9 chance of succeeding.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** DEFINITIONS. The definitions in this
11 section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly
12 requires otherwise.

13 (1) "Advanced paraeducator certificate" means a credential earned
14 by a paraeducator who may have the following duties: Assisting in
15 highly impacted classrooms, assisting in specialized instructional
16 support and instructional technology applications, mentoring and
17 coaching other paraeducators, and acting as a short-term emergency
18 substitute teacher.

19 (2) "Board" means the paraeducator board established in section 3
20 of this act.

21 (3) "English language learner programs" means the English
22 language learners program, the transitional bilingual instruction
23 program, and the federal limited English proficiency program.

24 (4) "English language learner certificate" means a credential
25 earned by a paraeducator working with students in English language
26 learner programs.

27 (5) "Paraeducator" means a classified public school or school
28 district employee who works under the supervision of a certificated
29 or licensed staff member to support and assist in providing
30 instructional and other services to students and their families.

1 Paraeducators are not considered certificated instructional staff as
2 that term and its meaning are used in this title.

3 (6) "Special education certificate" means a credential earned by
4 a paraeducator working with students in special education programs.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** PARAEDUCATOR BOARD CREATED. (1)(a) The
6 paraeducator board is created, consisting of nine members to be
7 appointed to four-year terms.

8 (b) Vacancies on the board must be filled by appointment or
9 reappointment as described in subsection (2) of this section to terms
10 of four years.

11 (c) No person may serve as a member of the board for more than
12 two consecutive full four-year terms.

13 (d) The governor must biennially appoint the chair of the board.
14 No board member may serve as chair for more than four consecutive
15 years.

16 (2) Appointments to the board must be made as follows, subject to
17 confirmation by the senate:

18 (a) The superintendent of public instruction shall appoint a
19 basic education paraeducator, a special education paraeducator, an
20 English language learner paraeducator, a teacher, a principal, and a
21 representative of the office of the superintendent of public
22 instruction;

23 (b) The Washington state parent teacher association shall appoint
24 a parent whose child receives instructional support from a
25 paraeducator;

26 (c) The state board for community and technical colleges shall
27 appoint a representative of the community and technical college
28 system; and

29 (d) The student achievement council shall appoint a
30 representative of a four-year institution of higher education as
31 defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

32 (3) The professional educator standards board shall administer
33 the board.

34 (4) Each member of the board must be compensated in accordance
35 with RCW 43.03.240 and must be reimbursed for travel expenses
36 incurred in carrying out the duties of the board in accordance with
37 RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

38 (5) Members of the board may create informal advisory groups as
39 needed to inform the board's work.

1 (6) The governor may remove a member of the board for neglect of
2 duty, misconduct, malfeasance or misfeasance in office, or for
3 incompetency or unprofessional conduct as defined in chapter 18.130
4 RCW. In such a case, the governor shall file with the secretary of
5 state a statement of the causes for and the order of removal from the
6 board, and the secretary of state shall send a certified copy of the
7 statement of causes and order of removal to the last known post
8 office address of the member.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** POWERS AND DUTIES OF PARAEDUCATOR BOARD.

10 (1) The paraeducator board has the following powers and duties:

11 (a) Based on the recommendations of the paraeducator work group
12 established in chapter 136, Laws of 2014, adopt: (i) Minimum
13 employment requirements for paraeducators, as described in section 5
14 of this act; and (ii) paraeducator standards of practice, as
15 described in section 6 of this act;

16 (b) Establish requirements and policies for a general
17 paraeducator certificate, as described in section 8 of this act;

18 (c) Based on the recommendations of the paraeducator work group
19 established in chapter 136, Laws of 2014, establish requirements and
20 policies for subject matter certificates in English language learner
21 and special education, as described in section 9 of this act;

22 (d) Based on the recommendations of the paraeducator work group
23 established in chapter 136, Laws of 2014, establish requirements and
24 policies for an advanced paraeducator certificate, as described in
25 section 10 of this act;

26 (e) By September 1, 2018, approve, and develop if necessary,
27 courses required to meet the provisions of this chapter, where the
28 courses are offered in a variety of means that will limit cost and
29 improve access;

30 (f) Make policy recommendations, as necessary, for a paraeducator
31 career ladder that will increase opportunities for paraeducator
32 advancement through advanced education, professional learning, and
33 increased instructional responsibility;

34 (g) Collaborate with the office of the superintendent of public
35 instruction to adapt the electronic educator certification process to
36 include paraeducator certificates; and

37 (h) Adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that are necessary for
38 the effective and efficient implementation of this chapter.

1 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall act as the
2 administrator of any such rules and have the power to issue any
3 paraeducator certificates and revoke the same in accordance with
4 board rules.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** PARAEDUCATOR MINIMUM EMPLOYMENT
6 REQUIREMENTS. Effective September 1, 2017, the minimum employment
7 requirements for paraeducators are as provided in this section. The
8 paraeducator must:

- 9 (1) Be at least eighteen years of age and hold a high school
10 diploma or its equivalent; and
- 11 (2)(a) Have received a passing grade on the education testing
12 service paraeducator assessment; or
- 13 (b) Hold an associate of arts degree; or
- 14 (c) Have earned seventy-two quarter credits or forty-eight
15 semester credits at an institution of higher education; or
- 16 (d) Have completed a registered apprenticeship program.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** PARAEDUCATOR STANDARDS OF PRACTICE. The
18 board shall adopt state standards of practice for paraeducators that
19 are based on the recommendations of the paraeducator work group
20 established in chapter 136, Laws of 2014. These standards must
21 include:

- 22 (1) Supporting instructional opportunities;
- 23 (2) Demonstrating professionalism and ethical practices;
- 24 (3) Supporting a positive and safe learning environment;
- 25 (4) Communicating effectively and participating in the team
26 process; and
- 27 (5) Demonstrating cultural competency aligned with standards
28 developed by the professional educator standards board under RCW
29 28A.410.270.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** FUNDAMENTAL COURSE OF STUDY. (1) Subject
31 to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific
32 purpose, beginning September 1, 2019, school districts must provide a
33 four-day fundamental course of study on the state standards of
34 practice, as defined by the board, to paraeducators who have not
35 completed the course, either in the district or in another district
36 within the state. School districts must use best efforts to provide
37 the fundamental course of study before the paraeducator begins to

1 work with students and their families, and at a minimum by the
2 deadlines provided in subsection (2) of this section.

3 (2) School districts must provide the fundamental course of study
4 required in subsection (1) of this section as follows:

5 (a) For paraeducators hired on or before September 1st, by
6 September 30th of that year, regardless of the size of the district;
7 and

8 (b) For paraeducators hired after September 1st:

9 (i) For districts with ten thousand or more students, within four
10 months of the date of hire; and

11 (ii) For districts with fewer than ten thousand students, no
12 later than September 1st of the following year.

13 (3) School districts may collaborate with other school districts
14 or educational service districts to meet the requirements of this
15 section.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** GENERAL PARAEDUCATOR CERTIFICATE. (1)(a)
17 Paraeducators may become eligible for a general paraeducator
18 certificate by completing the four-day fundamental course of study,
19 as required under section 7 of this act, and an additional ten days
20 of general courses, as defined by the board, on the state
21 paraeducator standards of practice, described in section 6 of this
22 act.

23 (b) Paraeducators are not required to meet the general
24 paraeducator certificate requirements under this subsection (1)
25 unless amounts are appropriated for the specific purposes of
26 subsection (2) of this section and section 7 of this act.

27 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
28 specific purpose, beginning September 1, 2019, school districts must:

29 (a) Provide paraeducators with general courses on the state
30 paraeducator standards of practice; and

31 (b) Ensure all paraeducators employed by the district meet the
32 general certification requirements of this section within three years
33 of completing the four-day fundamental course of study.

34 (3) The general paraeducator certificate does not expire.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** PARAEDUCATOR SUBJECT MATTER CERTIFICATES.
36 (1) The board shall adopt requirements and policies for paraeducator
37 subject matter certificates in special education and in English

1 language learner that are based on the recommendations of the
2 paraeducator work group established in chapter 136, Laws of 2014.

3 (2) The rules adopted by the board must include the following
4 requirements:

5 (a) A subject matter certificate is not a prerequisite for a
6 paraeducator working in any program;

7 (b) Paraeducators may become eligible for a subject matter
8 certificate by completing twenty hours of professional development in
9 the subject area of the certificate; and

10 (c) Subject matter certificates expire after five years.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** ADVANCED PARAEDUCATOR CERTIFICATE. (1)

12 The board shall adopt requirements and policies for an advanced
13 paraeducator certificate that are based on the recommendations of the
14 paraeducator work group established in chapter 136, Laws of 2014.

15 (2) The rules adopted by the board must include the following
16 requirements:

17 (a) An advanced paraeducator certificate is not a prerequisite
18 for a paraeducator working in any program;

19 (b) Paraeducators may become eligible for an advanced
20 paraeducator certificate by completing seventy-five hours of
21 professional development in topics related to the duties of an
22 advanced paraeducator; and

23 (c) Advanced paraeducator certificates expire after five years.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** PILOTS. (1) By September 1, 2018, and

25 subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific
26 purpose, the board shall distribute grants to a diverse set of school
27 districts that volunteer to pilot the state paraeducator standards of
28 practice, the paraeducator certificates, and the courses described in
29 this chapter.

30 (2) By September 1, 2019, the volunteer districts must report to
31 the board with the outcomes of the pilot and any recommendations for
32 implementing the paraeducator standards of practice, paraeducator
33 certificates, and courses statewide. The outcomes reported must
34 include:

35 (a) An analysis of the costs to the district to implement the
36 state standards of practice by making available the required four-day
37 fundamental course of study;

1 (b) The number of paraeducators who completed the course of study
2 in the state standards of practice;

3 (c) The number of paraeducators who earned an advanced
4 paraeducator certificate, or a special education or English language
5 learner certificate;

6 (d) Any cost to the district and the paraeducator to earn a
7 certificate; and

8 (e) The impact on the size and assignment of the paraeducator
9 workforce as a result of the pilot.

10 (3) By November 1, 2019, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,
11 the board shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of the
12 legislature that summarizes the outcomes of the pilots and recommends
13 any statutory changes necessary to improve the statewide standards of
14 practice, paraeducator certificate requirements, and courses of study
15 necessary to meet these standards and requirements, among other
16 things.

17 (4) This section expires July 1, 2020.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** STUDY ON EFFECTIVENESS OF PARAEDUCATORS.

19 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
20 specific purpose, the Washington state institute for public policy
21 shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of paraeducators in
22 improving student outcomes in Washington state. The study must
23 examine variation in the use of paraeducators across public schools
24 and school districts and analyze whether and the extent that any
25 differences in students' academic progress can be attributed to the
26 use of paraeducators. The office of the superintendent of public
27 instruction and the education data center shall provide the data
28 necessary to conduct the analysis. The study must also include a
29 review of the national research literature on the effectiveness of
30 paraeducators in improving student outcomes.

31 (2) By December 15, 2017, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,
32 the institute must submit a final report to the appropriate
33 committees of the legislature.

34 (3) This section expires July 1, 2020.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
36 RCW to read as follows:

37 TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING. (1) The
38 superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with the

1 paraeducator board created in section 3 of this act and the
2 professional educator standards board, shall design a training
3 program for teachers and administrators as it relates to their role
4 working with paraeducators. Teacher training must include how to
5 direct a paraeducator working with students in the paraeducators'
6 classroom. Administrator training must include how to supervise and
7 evaluate paraeducators.

8 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
9 specific purpose, the training program designed under subsection (1)
10 of this section must be made available to public schools, school
11 districts, and educational service districts.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 **TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR PREPARATION.** The professional educator
15 standards board, in consultation with the paraeducator board created
16 in section 3 of this act and the office of the superintendent of
17 public instruction, shall incorporate into the content required to
18 complete a professional educator standards board-approved teacher or
19 administrator preparation program the following:

20 (1) For teachers, information on how to direct a paraeducator
21 working with students in the paraeducators' classroom; and

22 (2) For administrators, information on how to supervise and
23 evaluate paraeducators.

24 **Sec. 15.** RCW 28A.150.203 and 2009 c 548 s 102 are each amended
25 to read as follows:

26 **CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE MEANS PARAEDUCATOR.** The definitions in this
27 section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly
28 requires otherwise.

29 (1) "Basic education goal" means the student learning goals and
30 the student knowledge and skills described under RCW 28A.150.210.

31 (2) "Certificated administrative staff" means all those persons
32 who are chief executive officers, chief administrative officers,
33 confidential employees, supervisors, principals, or assistant
34 principals within the meaning of RCW 41.59.020(4).

35 (3) "Certificated employee" as used in this chapter and RCW
36 28A.195.010, 28A.405.100, 28A.405.210, 28A.405.240, 28A.405.250,
37 28A.405.300 through 28A.405.380, and chapter 41.59 RCW, means those

1 persons who hold certificates as authorized by rule of the Washington
2 professional educator standards board.

3 (4) "Certificated instructional staff" means those persons
4 employed by a school district who are nonsupervisory certificated
5 employees within the meaning of RCW 41.59.020(8), except for
6 paraeducators.

7 (5) "Class size" means an instructional grouping of students
8 where, on average, the ratio of students to teacher is the number
9 specified.

10 (6) "Classified employee" means a person who is employed as a
11 paraeducator and a person who does not hold a professional education
12 certificate or is employed in a position that does not require such a
13 certificate.

14 (7) "Classroom teacher" means a person who holds a professional
15 education certificate and is employed in a position for which such
16 certificate is required whose primary duty is the daily educational
17 instruction of students. In exceptional cases, people of unusual
18 competence but without certification may teach students so long as a
19 certificated person exercises general supervision, but the hiring of
20 such classified employees shall not occur during a labor dispute, and
21 such classified employees shall not be hired to replace certificated
22 employees during a labor dispute.

23 (8) "Instructional program of basic education" means the minimum
24 program required to be provided by school districts and includes
25 instructional hour requirements and other components under RCW
26 28A.150.220.

27 (9) "Program of basic education" means the overall program under
28 RCW 28A.150.200 and deemed by the legislature to comply with the
29 requirements of Article IX, section 1 of the state Constitution.

30 (10) "School day" means each day of the school year on which
31 pupils enrolled in the common schools of a school district are
32 engaged in academic and career and technical instruction planned by
33 and under the direction of the school.

34 (11) "School year" includes the minimum number of school days
35 required under RCW 28A.150.220 and begins on the first day of
36 September and ends with the last day of August, except that any
37 school district may elect to commence the annual school term in the
38 month of August of any calendar year and in such case the operation
39 of a school district for such period in August shall be credited by
40 the superintendent of public instruction to the succeeding school

1 year for the purpose of the allocation and distribution of state
2 funds for the support of such school district.

3 (12) "Teacher planning period" means a period of a school day as
4 determined by the administration and board of (~~the~~) directors of
5 the district that may be used by teachers for instruction-related
6 activities including but not limited to preparing instructional
7 materials; reviewing student performance; recording student data;
8 consulting with other teachers, instructional assistants, mentors,
9 instructional coaches, administrators, and parents; or participating
10 in professional development.

11 **Sec. 16.** RCW 28A.410.062 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 23 s 1 are each
12 amended to read as follows:

13 PARAEDUCATOR CERTIFICATE FEES. (1) The legislature finds that the
14 current economic environment requires that the state, when
15 appropriate, charge for some of the services provided directly to the
16 users of those services. The office of the superintendent of public
17 instruction is currently supported with state funds to process
18 certification fees. In addition, the legislature finds that the
19 processing of certifications should be moved to an online system that
20 allows educators to manage their certifications and provides better
21 information to policymakers. The legislature intends to assess a
22 certification processing fee to eliminate state-funded support of the
23 cost to issue educator certificates.

24 (2) In addition to the certification fee established under RCW
25 28A.410.060 for certificated instructional staff as defined in RCW
26 28A.150.203, the superintendent of public instruction shall charge an
27 application processing fee for initial educator certificates and
28 subsequent actions, and paraeducator certificates and subsequent
29 actions. The superintendent of public instruction shall establish the
30 amount of the fee by rule under chapter 34.05 RCW. The superintendent
31 shall set the fee at a sufficient level to defray the costs of
32 administering the educator certification program under RCW
33 28A.300.040(9) and the paraeducator certificate program under the
34 chapter created in section 21 of this act. Revenue generated through
35 the processing fee shall be deposited in the educator certification
36 processing account.

37 (3) The educator certification processing account is established
38 in the custody of the state treasurer. The superintendent of public
39 instruction shall deposit in the account all moneys received from the

1 fees collected in subsection (2) of this section. Moneys in the
2 account may be spent only for the processing of educator certificates
3 and subsequent actions and paraeducator certificates and subsequent
4 actions. Disbursements from the account shall be on authorization of
5 the superintendent of public instruction or the superintendent's
6 designee. The account is subject to the allotment procedure provided
7 under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for
8 disbursements.

9 **Sec. 17.** RCW 28A.630.400 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 132 are each
10 amended to read as follows:

11 PARAEDUCATOR ASSOCIATE OF ARTS. (1) The professional educator
12 standards board and the state board for community and technical
13 colleges, in consultation with the superintendent of public
14 instruction, the state apprenticeship training council, and community
15 colleges, shall adopt rules as necessary under chapter 34.05 RCW to
16 implement the paraeducator associate of arts degree.

17 (2) As used in this section, a "paraeducator" is an individual
18 who has completed an associate of arts degree for a paraeducator. The
19 paraeducator may be hired by a school district to assist certificated
20 instructional staff in the direct instruction of children in small
21 and large groups, individualized instruction, testing of children,
22 recordkeeping, and preparation of materials. The paraeducator shall
23 work under the direction of instructional certificated staff.

24 (3)(a) The training program for a paraeducator associate of arts
25 degree shall include, but is not limited to, the general requirements
26 for receipt of an associate of arts degree and training in the areas
27 of introduction to childhood education, orientation to children with
28 disabilities, fundamentals of childhood education, creative
29 activities for children, instructional materials for children, fine
30 art experiences for children, the psychology of learning,
31 introduction to education, child health and safety, child development
32 and guidance, first aid, and a practicum in a school setting.

33 (b) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
34 specific purpose, by September 1, 2018, the training program for a
35 paraeducator associate of arts degree must incorporate the state
36 paraeducator standards of practice adopted by the paraeducator board
37 under section 6 of this act.

1 (4) Consideration shall be given to transferability of credit
2 earned in this program to teacher preparation programs at colleges
3 and universities.

4 **Sec. 18.** RCW 28A.660.040 and 2010 c 235 s 504 are each amended
5 to read as follows:

6 TEACHER ALTERNATIVE ROUTE PROGRAMS FOR PARAEDUCATORS. Alternative
7 route programs under this chapter shall operate one to four specific
8 route programs. Successful completion of the program shall make a
9 candidate eligible for residency teacher certification. The mentor of
10 the teacher candidate at the school and the supervisor of the teacher
11 candidate from the teacher preparation program must both agree that
12 the teacher candidate has successfully completed the program.

13 (1) Alternative route programs operating route one programs shall
14 enroll currently employed classified instructional employees with
15 transferable associate degrees seeking residency teacher
16 certification with (~~endorsements in special education, bilingual~~
17 ~~education, or English as a second language~~) an endorsement in
18 subject matter shortage areas, as defined by the professional
19 educator standards board. It is anticipated that candidates enrolled
20 in this route will complete both their baccalaureate degree and
21 requirements for residency certification in two years or less,
22 including a mentored internship to be completed in the final year. In
23 addition, partnership programs shall uphold entry requirements for
24 candidates that include:

25 (a) District or building validation of qualifications, including
26 one year of successful student interaction and leadership as a
27 classified instructional employee;

28 (b) Successful passage of the statewide basic skills exam; and

29 (c) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness
30 requirements adopted by rule for teachers.

31 (2) Alternative route programs operating route two programs shall
32 enroll currently employed classified staff with baccalaureate degrees
33 seeking residency teacher certification in subject matter shortage
34 areas and areas with shortages due to geographic location. Candidates
35 enrolled in this route must complete a mentored internship
36 complemented by flexibly scheduled training and coursework offered at
37 a local site, such as a school or educational service district, or
38 online or via videoconference over the K-20 network, in collaboration
39 with the partnership program's higher education partner. In addition,

1 partnership grant programs shall uphold entry requirements for
2 candidates that include:

3 (a) District or building validation of qualifications, including
4 one year of successful student interaction and leadership as
5 classified staff;

6 (b) A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited
7 institution of higher education. The individual's college or
8 university grade point average may be considered as a selection
9 factor;

10 (c) Successful completion of the subject matter assessment
11 required by RCW 28A.410.220(3);

12 (d) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness
13 requirements adopted by rule for teachers; and

14 (e) Successful passage of the statewide basic skills exam.

15 (3) Alternative route programs seeking funds to operate route
16 three programs shall enroll individuals with baccalaureate degrees,
17 who are not employed in the district at the time of application. When
18 selecting candidates for certification through route three, districts
19 and approved preparation program providers shall give priority to
20 individuals who are seeking residency teacher certification in
21 subject matter shortage areas or shortages due to geographic
22 locations. Cohorts of candidates for this route shall attend an
23 intensive summer teaching academy, followed by a full year employed
24 by a district in a mentored internship, followed, if necessary, by a
25 second summer teaching academy. In addition, partnership programs
26 shall uphold entry requirements for candidates that include:

27 (a) A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited
28 institution of higher education. The individual's grade point average
29 may be considered as a selection factor;

30 (b) Successful completion of the subject matter assessment
31 required by RCW 28A.410.220(3);

32 (c) External validation of qualifications, including demonstrated
33 successful experience with students or children, such as reference
34 letters and letters of support from previous employers;

35 (d) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness
36 requirements adopted by rule for teachers; and

37 (e) Successful passage of statewide basic skills exam.

38 (4) Alternative route programs operating route four programs
39 shall enroll individuals with baccalaureate degrees, who are employed
40 in the district at the time of application, or who hold conditional

1 teaching certificates or emergency substitute certificates. Cohorts
2 of candidates for this route shall attend an intensive summer
3 teaching academy, followed by a full year employed by a district in a
4 mentored internship. If employed on a conditional certificate, the
5 intern may serve as the teacher of record, supported by a well-
6 trained mentor. In addition, partnership programs shall uphold entry
7 requirements for candidates that include:

8 (a) A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited
9 institution of higher education. The individual's grade point average
10 may be considered as a selection factor;

11 (b) Successful completion of the subject matter assessment
12 required by RCW 28A.410.220(3);

13 (c) External validation of qualifications, including demonstrated
14 successful experience with students or children, such as reference
15 letters and letters of support from previous employers;

16 (d) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness
17 requirements adopted by rule for teachers; and

18 (e) Successful passage of statewide basic skills exam.

19 (5) Applicants for alternative route programs who are eligible
20 veterans or national guard members and who meet the entry
21 requirements for the alternative route program for which application
22 is made shall be given preference in admission.

23 **Sec. 19.** RCW 28A.660.042 and 2007 c 396 s 6 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 PIPELINE FOR PARAEDUCATORS SCHOLARSHIP. (1) The pipeline for
26 paraeducators conditional scholarship program is created.
27 Participation is limited to paraeducators without a college degree
28 who have at least three years of classroom experience. It is
29 anticipated that candidates enrolled in this program will complete
30 their associate of arts degree at a community and technical college
31 in two years or less and become eligible for (~~a mathematics, special~~
32 ~~education, or English as a second language endorsement~~) an
33 endorsement in a subject matter shortage area, as defined by the
34 professional educator standards board, via route one in the
35 alternative routes to teacher certification program provided in this
36 chapter.

37 (2) Entry requirements for candidates include district or
38 building validation of qualifications, including three years of

1 successful student interaction and leadership as a classified
2 instructional employee.

3 **Sec. 20.** RCW 28B.50.891 and 2014 c 136 s 4 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 PARAEDUCATOR APPRENTICESHIP AND CERTIFICATE. Beginning with the
6 2015-16 academic year, any community or technical college that offers
7 an apprenticeship program or certificate program for paraeducators
8 must provide candidates the opportunity to earn transferable course
9 credits within the program. The programs must also incorporate the
10 standards for cultural competence, including multicultural education
11 and principles of language acquisition, developed by the professional
12 educator standards board under RCW 28A.410.270. Subject to the
13 availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, by
14 September 1, 2018, the paraeducator apprenticeship and certificate
15 programs must also incorporate the state paraeducator standards of
16 practice adopted by the paraeducator board under section 6 of this
17 act.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 21.** Sections 1 through 12 of this act
19 constitute a new chapter in Title 28A RCW.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 22.** RCW 28A.415.310 (Paraprofessional
21 training program) and 1993 c 336 s 408 are each repealed."

22 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Maintains substantial similar provisions related to:
Statewide minimum employment requirements for paraeducators, elements
of the paraeducator standards, field testing of the new paraeducator
programs, fees for paraeducator certificates, training for teachers
and principals as it relates to their role working with
paraeducators, adding standards to the paraeducator associate of arts
degree and apprenticeship program requirements, and a study on the
effectiveness of paraeducators in improving outcomes.

Specifies that to be eligible for a general paraeducator
certificate a paraeducator must complete a four-day fundamental
course of study and ten days of general courses on the state
paraeducator standards of practice.

Provides that paraeducators are not required to meet these
general paraeducator certificate requirements unless amounts are
appropriated for the courses.

Requires that, beginning September 1, 2019, and subject to
funding, school districts must: (1) Provide paraeducators with
general courses on the standards of practice, and (2) ensure all

paraeducators meet the general certification requirements within three years of completing the four-day fundamental course of study.

Adds members to the Paraeducator Board, includes provisions related to filling vacancies and removing members, and changes the administrator to the Professional Educator Standards Board, rather than the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Requires the Paraeducator Board to approve, and develop if necessary, courses required to meet the provisions of this chapter, by September 1, 2018.

Adds that the Superintendent of Public Instruction must act as the administrator of any Paraeducator Board rules and have the power to issue any paraeducator certificates and revoke the same in accordance with these rules.

Makes the endorsements in special education and English language learner optional rather than a requirement for paraeducators in those programs, and names them subject matter certificates.

Specifies that to be eligible for an advanced paraeducator certificate, rather than an endorsement, a paraeducator must complete seventy-five hours of professional development in topics related to the duties of an advanced paraeducator.

Expands the Pipeline for Paraeducators and the Alternative Route to Teaching Certificate Route One.

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