

Paraprofessional Defined for the Purposes of ESEA

- A paraprofessional is an employee who provides instructional support in a program supported with Title I A funds.
- This includes paraprofessionals who
 - Provide one-on-one tutoring,
 - Assist with classroom management,
 - Provide instructional assistance in a computer laboratory,
 - Conduct parental involvement activities,
 - Provide support in a library or media center,
 - Provide instructional support services under the direct supervision of a teacher.

Requirements - Title I Instructional Paraprofessionals

- All instructional paraprofessionals, regardless of date of hire, **must immediately** have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Instructional paraprofessionals hired **AFTER 1/8/2002** and employed in a Title I program must **immediately** be qualified.
- Instructional paraprofessionals hired **BEFORE 1/8/2002** and employed in a Title I program have until the end of the 2005-2006 school year (**June 30, 2006**) to meet the requirements.

- Must meet **one** of the following:
 - Completed at least two years of study at an institution of higher education, **OR**
 - Obtained an associate’s (or higher) degree, **OR**
 - Passed a state or local academic assessment establishing that the paraprofessional has knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing reading, writing, and mathematics.

Michigan’s State and Local Options Available

State Level Assessments

- Basic Skills Test of the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification,
- WorkKeys Assessment and Skill Levels for Title I Paraprofessionals in Reading for Information (level 4), Applied Mathematics (level 4), and Writing (level 3)
- ETS Parapro Assessment (state qualifying score of 460)

Local Level Assessment

- The Michigan Paraprofessional Portfolio Assessment is the only *approved* local assessment process. The Paraprofessional Portfolio must be developed in compliance with the Guidelines of the Michigan Paraprofessional Portfolio Assessment approved by the Michigan State Department of Education.
- Guidelines for the Michigan Paraprofessional Portfolio Assessment may be reviewed at www.mea.org/esea or www.michigan.gov/mde (select Educators, Professional Preparation, Current Updates, then Paraprofessionals and NCLB)