

Public Notice: Ed-Flex Waiver Application – Bluffton-Harrison MSD

Subject: Notice of Intent to Utilize Ed-Flex Waiver #2 – Paraprofessional Qualifications

Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District (BHMSD) is providing public notice of its intent to participate in the **Ed-Flex Program**, a federal initiative through the U.S. Department of Education. Ed-Flex grants state education agencies the flexibility to waive certain statutory or regulatory requirements that may impede efforts to improve educational outcomes.

BHMSD is applying for **Waiver #2: Increased Flexibility in Paraprofessional Requirements** to enhance our ability to recruit and retain qualified instructional assistants at our **Title I Elementary School**.

Current Qualification Options for Paraprofessionals:

- Two years of college experience (48 credit hours)
- An associate (two-year) degree
- A passing score on the ParaPro Assessment (within first year of employment)

Proposed Additional Qualification Options (with Waiver #2):

- 48 hours of college credit (no degree)
- A **Child Development Associate (CDA)** credential
- Completion of **LEA-required professional development**
- Documented **1,000 hours** of experience in a student-support role
- Satisfactory **annual school-level evaluation**

By expanding our hiring criteria, BHMSD can:

- Attract passionate individuals who support student learning
- Improve candidate pipelines for paraprofessional positions
- Retain skilled instructional assistants who foster consistency and student growth

Public Input Invited

We welcome feedback from parents, educators, and community stakeholders.

Please direct questions or comments to:

Julie Meitzler, Assistant Superintendent

 jmeitzler@bhmsd.org

All input will be individually reviewed and summarized in the **Assistant Superintendent's Report** at the **BHMSD Board Meeting on July 21, 2025**.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to strengthen education for all BHMSD students!