BP-4222

TEACHER AIDES/PARAPROFESSIONALS

The School Board favors the use of teacher aides/paraprofessionals and considers them to be members of a professional team dedicated to the best interests of students. By relieving teachers of duties that do not require professional training, non-certificated persons allow teachers to dedicate their skills, knowledge and efforts primarily to teaching. Paraprofessionals also can help teachers to provide individualized student instruction and an enriched educational program.

The district shall use paraprofessionals in those classes where they will provide the greatest benefit to students, taking into consideration such factors as large class size, student age group and teacher workload.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all paraprofessionals have appropriate training and supervision.

Paraprofessionals are expected to be courteous, discrete, cooperative and dependable, to employ high ethical standards as they work with students, and to respect school rules, district policies and administrative regulations.

The Board recognizes the need for qualified teaching staff and encourages paraprofessionals to seek opportunities leading to teaching credential. The district shall support these efforts to the extent possible, particularly as they relate to obtaining special education credentials.

Instructional paraprofessionals must have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent and must meet at least one of the following requirements: (1) completed at least two years of study, or at least 48 semester hours or equivalent an at accredited institution of higher education; (2) obtained an Associate's or higher degree at an accredited institution; or (3) demonstrated through formal assessment, the instructional content/assisting practice standards required by the State of Alaska.

Exceptions to the above requirements may be made for paraprofessionals who act as translators, who have instructional-support duties that consist solely of parent involvement activities or who have only non-instructional duties.

Legal References:

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
4 AAC 04.220 Paraprofessional Standards
4 AAC 05.080 School Curriculum and Personnel
4 AAC 52.250 Special Education Aides
4 AAC 52.255 Interpreters

UNITED STATES CODE
Elementary and Secondary Education Act U.S.C. §6311, as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act, (P.L. 114-95 (December 10, 2015)

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