

§126-136-12. Paraprofessional.

12.1. Permanent Paraprofessional Certificate

12.1.1. General Criteria. - A Paraprofessional certificate may be issued to a person who has completed: 1) the general requirements specified in §126-136-9; and 2) the general conditions for issuance identified in §126-136-12.1.3. The Paraprofessional Certificate entitles the holder to serve in a support capacity including, but not limited to, facilitating the instruction and direct or indirect supervision of pupils under the direction of an educator.

12.1.2. Validity Period. - The Permanent Paraprofessional Certificate shall continue to be valid unless surrendered, suspended or revoked. The Initial Paraprofessional Certificate endorsed for Educational Interpreter shall be valid for one school year and shall expire on June 30. The Initial Paraprofessional Certificate – Educational Interpreter that is effective on or after January 1, may be issued as an Initial Paraprofessional Certificate – Educational Interpreter valid until June 30 of the following school year. The Initial Paraprofessional Certificate – Educational Interpreter may not be renewed more than one time.

12.1.3. General Conditions for Issuance. - The applicant for licensure must submit evidence of satisfying 36 semester hours of post-secondary education or its equivalent in the following:

a. Basic Skills. - The applicant must have completed at least nine semester hours of college/university credit or its equivalent in reading, writing and mathematical computations. Three semester hours of coursework can be credited by passing each of the Pre-Professional Skills Tests, hereinafter PPST, in reading, writing and mathematics or meeting one of the exceptions identified in §126-136-10.1.2.c.F. Equivalent training may be obtained from in-service programs or adult technical education programs delivered through county school systems or RESAs provided the equivalent training for the Paraprofessional License reflects the distribution of requirements specified in §126-136-12.1.3. Fifteen clock hours of in-service or adult technical education equals one semester hour of college/university credit; **AND**

b. General Studies. - The applicant must have completed at least six semester hours of college/university credit or its equivalent from the humanities, fine arts, and/or physical, biological or social sciences; **AND**

c. Computer Literacy. - The applicant must have completed at least three semester hours of college/university credit or its equivalent in computer literacy; **AND**

d. Special Education. - The applicant must have completed at least three semester hours of college/university credit or its equivalent in special education. Documentation of a minimum of two years of successful experience which included

special needs children and a minimum of ten clock hours of in-service training directly related to special education may be substituted for the college/university credit provided that such experience is acquired in the public education classroom setting while the applicant is under direct supervision of a licensed public educator; **AND**

e. Classroom Management. - The applicant must have completed at least three semester hours of college/university credit or its equivalent in classroom management acquired in the public classroom setting. Documentation of a minimum of two years of experience in the successful use of classroom management skills may be substituted for college/university credit provided that such experience is acquired in the public education classroom setting while the applicant is under direct supervision of a licensed public educator; **AND**

f. Human Growth and Development. - The applicant must have completed at least three semester hours of college/university credit or its equivalent in human growth and development or psychology; **AND**

g. Electives. - The applicant must have completed nine semester hours of electives related to public instruction or its equivalent; **AND**

h. Academic Assessment. - The applicant must have met a rigorous standard of quality and demonstrate, through a formal state approved academic assessment which includes a measurement of: 1) knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing, reading, writing and mathematics; and 2) knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing, reading readiness, writing readiness, and mathematics readiness, as appropriate. Paraprofessionals must meet WVBE requirements for the Paraprofessional Certificate. Paraprofessionals who have taken and passed the current state competency exam for aides developed pursuant to W.Va. Code §18A-4-8e have satisfied this requirement;