Title: Additional Assessments to Determine the Highly Qualified Status of Paraprofessionals Working in Title I Schools, Draft 1, July 2022

Background Information:
Paraprofessionals (paraeducators) working in Title I schools, must be highly qualified (HQ). HQ status can be established in one of three ways:
1. Complete at least two years (48 semester hours) of study at an institution of higher education;
2. Obtain an associate’s or higher degree; or
3. Obtain a high school diploma or equivalent and meet a rigorous standard of quality, and demonstrates-through a formal academic assessment - knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing, as appropriate-
   a. Reading/language arts, writing, and mathematics; or
   b. Reading readiness, writing readiness, and mathematics readiness.

Currently, Utah LEAs administer the ETS ParaPro Assessment to paraprofessionals who do not meet the higher education requirement. However, in June 2022, LEAs received notice that beginning July 2022, ETS would no longer allow LEAs to administer the ParaPro Assessment to paraprofessionals. Paraprofessionals would have to travel to a Prometric Testing Center or participate in the “At Home” method of delivery.

Impact of this change
1) In the past, LEAs have been able to provide the assessment for $55. Now, taking the assessment at the testing center or at home will cost significantly more at $85 and $91, respectively. While Title I funding can be used to pay for the test, the increase in price diverts funding away from schools and students.
2) The "At Home" version requires a test taker to have a laptop or computer, reliable internet access, and a quiet room with closed door. Those applying to work as a paraprofessional may not have access to all requirements.
3) There are currently only three Prometric Testing Centers in the state which will have a greater impact on our rural LEAs.

Additional assessments that could be utilized to determine the HQ status of paraprofessionals:
1. ParaEducator Assessment by Master Teacher with minimum passing scores set at 70% on the Application of Reading, Writing and Math, and 65% on the Knowledge of Supporting Instruction (based on other state’s cut scores and Master Teacher’s minimum requirement of 65%); and
2. Project Para with a cut score of 116 (based on research conducted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln)

(Please reference the table on the next page.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Cost and Supplemental Materials</th>
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| Current Proposed    | ParaPro Assessment by ETS                   | 90 multiple-choice questions; 2.5 hrs.  
60 = basic skills and knowledge  
30 = applying skills in the classroom  
$85-91 (extra for retakes)  
Some free study materials; 90-day subscription to study guide and practice test = $19 per person |
| Proposed Adoption   | ParaEducator by Master Teacher              | 105 T/F, multiple choice; no time limit  
75 - Application (reading, writing, math)  
30 - Knowledge of Supporting Instruction (reading, writing, math)  
1-3 $89  
4-9 $69  
10-24 $59  
150+ self-paced courses  
Free retakes |
| Proposed Adoption   | Project Para  
Developed by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and the Nebraska Department of Ed. | 166 multiple choice questions  
85 academic (reading, writing and mathematics)  
81 assisting in the delivery of instruction (reading, writing and mathematics)  
Minimal cost (UNL management of dataflow) Paraeducator Self-Study Program with 14 units covering a variety of topics to aid paraprofessionals with the development of skills needed to work effectively in a classroom setting. |

Applicable Federal Laws

**Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Section 1111(g)(2)(J)**

34 CFR § 200.58 Qualifications of paraprofessionals.

Applicable Board Rule

**R277-324 Paraprofessional/Paraeducator Programs, Assignments, and Qualifications.**
1. If laws, bills, rules, statutes, etc., are included — hyperlink the reference.
   a. Required: check all external links in backup documentation for content before submitting information to the Board.

2. Make sure that if research is included, it is unbiased, published within the past ten years, and demonstrates what the larger body of literature supports (e.g., meta-analysis, literature review). Outlier information can be included but note that it is outside the larger body of evidence, outdated, or include a disclaimer of understanding there is research out there that may not have been included.
   a. Disclaimer: Please note this research synthesis was limited by publication date, peer-reviewed journals, and search terms of “xx,” “xx,” and “xx.”
      i. Difference between evidence-based (outputs) and research-based (inputs).
      ii. R277-406: “Evidence-based” means a strategy that has demonstrated a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes.

Questions that need to be considered (real-world application).

1. How to respond to Board Members who would like changes to the backup document(s) after the deadline has passed?
   a. Ask these questions:
      i. Is the change necessary?
         1. If yes, need deputy superintendent and committee chair approval.
            a. Make the board secretary aware of the change.
         2. If not, recommend they speak to it during the meeting.
      ii. Is it relevant to the agenda item (the recommended action)?
         1. If yes, need deputy superintendent and committee chair approval.
            a. Make the board secretary aware of the change.
         2. If not, recommend they speak to it during the meeting.
2. When a board member asks staff to add a document to the agenda item after the backup deadline:
   i. Board and committee meeting document:
      1. Notify Deputy Superintendent and Board Secretary

3. When a board member or staff asks for something to be added to the backups within 24 hours of the meeting:
   a. No documents can be uploaded within 24hrs of the meeting.
      i. Direct the board member to the appropriate deputy superintendent or board secretary so the document can be distributed pragmatically.
      ii. Staff should seek approval from their deputy superintendent to present the document during the meeting or handouts during an in-person meeting. The deputy superintendent will inform the committee chair that the paper may be given or referenced.
Overview
The Text Snippets feature allows you to insert words or phrases into your Items or Minutes from a pre-determined list of text snippets, rather than having to type text over and over. This article will show you how to add new Text Snippets.

Item Type
The desired outcome of the memo

❖ **Information Item**
  That the Committee receives the information presented by staff related to this item.

❖ **Discussion Item**
  That the Committee discusses the information presented by staff related to this item.

❖ **Action Item**
  That the Committee takes action on the item presented by staff.

Current Snippets:

Contact table:
- Contact(s)
- Name:
- Title:
Rules:

★ New rule approval
That the Committee approves R277-_______, Draft ____ on the first reading and forwards it to the Board for approval on the second and final reading.

★ Rule amendment approval
That the committee approves R277-_______, Draft ____ on the first reading and forwards it to the Board for approval on the second and final reading.

★ Rule continuation only approval
That the Committee approves the continuation of R277-______, on the first reading and forwards it to the Board for continuation on the second and final reading.

★ Rule amendment and continuation approval
That the Committee continues and approves R277-_______, Draft ____, on the first reading and forward it to the Board for continuation and approval on the second and final reading.

★ Rule repeal
That the Committee repeals R277-_______ on the first reading and recommends the Board repeal the rule on the second and final reading.
Board Policy

- Board policy approval
  That the Committee approves Board Policy _____ Draft ____ and forwards the recommendation to the Board for approval.

Recommended New Snippets:

- Standard Review Process
  That the Committee approves staff to move forward with the standard review process and forward the recommendation to the Board for final approval.

- Revision of Standards
  That the Committee approves staff to move forward with the mentioned standards and forward the recommendation to the Board for final approval.

- Approval of Forms
  That the Committee approves the recommended form(s) and forwards to the full Board the form(s) for final approval.

- Data Sharing
  That the Committee approves the Data Sharing Agreement with _____ and forwards the recommendation to the Board for final approval.

- Approval of State Grants/Funding Requests
  That the Board approves the ________(state grant program) plans as recommended by the ________(name of advisory committee).
Action on Advisory Committee or Work Group Recommendations

★ That the Committee recommends the Board approves recommendation from the (name of Advisory Committee) (Date) memo.

★ That the Committee requests staff prepare a draft (rule/board policy/guidance/resolution) for discussion and consideration in a future Committee meeting.

★ That the Committee recommends the Board establish a (task force, advisory committee, work group) to discuss and provide recommendations to the Board by (date).

★ That the Committee receives the report provided by (advisory committee).