



### Highly Qualified Paraeducators – The No Child Left Behind Act

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, is designed to help disadvantaged children reach high academic standards. San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) recognizes that properly trained paraeducators can play an important role in this effort by reinforcing the critical work that teachers perform every day in the classroom.

Under NCLB, paraeducators who directly assist with instruction in a classroom setting, and whose site or department receives Title I funding, must comply with the minimum qualification requirements described below. To ensure that *all* students will benefit from the intent of NCLB, the District has determined that *all* paraeducators in the following classifications, regardless of how the site receives its funding, must comply with these requirements:

- Art Instructional Assistant
- Athletics Assistant
- AVID Assistant
- Classroom Assistant
- Community Home Ed. School Asst.
- Computer Assistant
- Dance Assistant
- English as a Second Language Asst.
- Extended Day Assistant
- Independent Study Assistant
- Instructional Behavior Technician
- Library Assistant
- Mathematics Assistant
- Media Production Assistant
- Music Instructional Assistant
- ROP Assistant
- Science Assistant
- Special Education Assistant
- Special Education Braille Assistant
- Special Education Low Incidence Asst.
- Special Education Signing Assistant
- Sp. Ed Phys. & Health Disab. Sp. Techn. Asst.
- Special Ed Technician
- Special Needs Assistant
- Theater & Media Assistant
- Writer's Assistant

NCLB requires that all paraeducators in the classifications listed above must be able to provide acceptable proof of the following:

1. a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (i.e., GED);
2. **and either:**
  - 48 units of study at an institution of higher education (excluding foreign language coursework); **or**
  - an associate's degree or higher; **or**
  - met a rigorous local assessment demonstrating knowledge of and ability to assist instructing, reading, writing, and mathematics (the District's Classroom Assistant Proficiency Exam was modified upon passage of the NCLB and has been deemed a viable instrument for verifying this requirement).

All applicants must meet these requirements before they are deemed eligible to work in any capacity (e.g. in regular employment or as a substitute). The district maintains detailed records outlining the status and the manner by which applicants have proven their eligibility for employment.

*Serving nearly 136,000 students, San Diego Unified School District is the second largest school district in California, with 202 educational facilities and more than 14,500 full-time equivalent positions (representing more than 15,800 employees). SDUSD is improving student achievement by focusing on challenging instruction in reading, writing and mathematics in pre-kindergarten through Grade 12. The district is committed to supporting schools and enhancing the classroom learning environment through modernized facilities and resources and through parent, teacher and community involvement in the educational process.*

### SUMMARY

- ❖ The NCLB establishes new minimum eligibility requirements for paraeducators who assist with instruction in the classroom and whose site receives Title I funding.
- ❖ To provide the best benefits of the legislation to our students, the district has determined that *all* paraeducators in certain classifications must comply with the new requirements, with no regard to how the site is funded.
- ❖ Paraeducators must meet the new qualifications prior to the first day of work with the district in any capacity (monthly or substitute).