

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish certification requirements for all paraprofessionals employed by Austin Public Schools.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of Austin Public Schools that all paraprofessionals employed by the district meet state and federal standards including those outlined in the No Child Left Behind Act.

All district paraprofessionals must meet **one** of the following criteria by the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year:

A. An Associate's Degree

OR

B. Two years of study at an institution of higher education

OR

C. A passing score on a state approved local assessment

OR

D. A portfolio that demonstrates all Minnesota Paraprofessional Core Competencies

The district shall pay the costs incurred for one test administration for each paraprofessional employed by the district. If the paraprofessional fails to achieve the required score on the state approved test, the paraprofessional may take the test additional times at his/her expense.

The district shall convene a panel to review portfolios prior to the beginning of each school year for those paraprofessionals seeking to meet the criteria through the development of a portfolio.

Policy Adopted: 03/08/04

Policy Reviewed: 10/10/11

Policy Reviewed: 7/13/15

Policy Reviewed: 02/12/18

Policy Reviewed: 01/11/21

Policy Reviewed: 12/12/22