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**Qualifications for paraprofessionals**

Support Personnel/Paraprofessional Personnel Positions, Qualifications and Duties.

(Statutory Authority: S.C. Code Ann. Section 59-5-60 (1990) and 20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq. (2002))

A. Support personnel positions for school district superintendents and school principals

1. Secretarial services shall be provided.

2. Custodial services shall be provided.

B. Paraprofessional personnel positions

1. Each teacher of trainable, orthopedically, emotionally, or visually disabled pupils in a self-contained classroom model shall have a paraprofessional full time, provided that the class has a minimum membership of four pupils.

2. Each teacher of a kindergarten unit shall have a paraprofessional full time.

C. Paraprofessional Personnel Qualifications and Duties

1. Paraprofessionals helping with classroom instruction or programs shall meet the following requirements:

a. All instructional paraprofessionals must be at least 18 years of age.

b. All instructional paraprofessionals must have at least a high school diploma or state equivalency certificate.

c. Instructional paraprofessionals who work in a Title I school or a Title I targeted assistance program and who were hired after January 8, 2002, must either

(1) hold a two-year associate's degree from an accredited institution, or

(2) have completed two years (60 semester hours) of college coursework from an accredited institution, or

(3) have passed a state-approved examination of content knowledge and pedagogy.

d. Instructional paraprofessionals who work in a Title I school or a Title I targeted assistance program and who were hired before January 8, 2002, must meet the requirements listed in C.1.c. by January 8, 2006.

e. All instructional paraprofessionals must work under the direct supervision of a certified teacher.

f. All instructional paraprofessionals must participate in preservice and inservice training programs for instructional paraprofessionals.

2. The State Department of Education will maintain an electronic registry of instructional paraprofessionals that indicates whether the instructional paraprofessional has met the requirements listed in C.1.c.