

Bigfork School District #38

PERSONNEL

5420

Teachers' Aides/Paraeducators

Teachers' aides/paraeducators, as defined in the appropriate job descriptions, are under the supervision of a principal and a teacher to whom the principal may have delegated responsibility for close direction. The nature of the work accomplished by paraeducators will encompass a variety of tasks that may be inclusive of "limited instructional duties."

Paraeducators are employed by the District mainly to assist the teacher. A paraeducator is an extension of the teacher, who legally has the direct control and supervision of the classroom or playground and responsibility for control and the welfare of the students.

In compliance with applicable legal requirements, the Board shall require all paraeducators with instructional duties that are newly hired in a Title I school-wide program, to have:

1. Completed at least two (2) years of study at an institution of higher education;
2. Obtained an Associate's or higher degree; or
3. Met a rigorous standard of quality, and can demonstrate through a formal state or local academic assessment the knowledge of and ability to assist in the instruction of reading, writing, or mathematics or the instruction of readiness of these subjects.

Paraeducators hired before January 8, 2002, have until January 1, 2006, to meet these standards.

It is the responsibility of each principal and teacher to provide adequate training for a paraeducator. This training should take into account the unique situations in which a paraeducator works and should be designed to cover the general contingencies that might be expected to pertain to that situation. During the first thirty (30) days of employment, the supervising teacher or administrator shall continue to assess the skills and ability of the paraeducator to assist in reading, writing, and mathematics instruction.

The Superintendent shall develop and implement procedures for an annual evaluation of teachers' aides/paraeducators. Evaluation results shall be a factor in future employment decisions.

Legal Reference: Public Law 107-110, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

Policy History:

Adopted on: 11/07/02

Revised on: