

Educational Support Personnel

Duties and Qualifications ¹

All support staff: (1) must meet qualifications specified in job descriptions, (2) must be able to perform the essential tasks listed and/or assigned, and (3) are subject to School Board policies as they may be changed from time to time at the Board's sole discretion.

Paraprofessionals ²

Paraprofessionals provide supervised instructional support. Service as a paraprofessional requires an educator license with stipulations endorsed for a paraprofessional educator unless a specific exemption is authorized by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Individuals with only non-instructional duties (e.g., providing technical support for computers, providing personal care services, or performing clerical duties) are not paraprofessionals, and the requirements in this section do not apply. In addition, individuals completing their clinical experiences and/or student teaching do not need to comply with this section, provided their service otherwise complies with ISBE rules. ³

Noncertificated and Unlicensed Personnel Working with Students and Performing Non-Instructional Duties

Noncertificated and unlicensed personnel performing non-instructional duties may be used:

1. For supervising study halls, long-distance teaching reception areas used incident to instructional programs transmitted by electronic media (e.g., computers, video, and audio), detention and discipline areas, and school-sponsored extracurricular activities; ⁴

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¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content. This policy contains an item on which collective bargaining may be required. Any policy that impacts upon wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment, is subject to collective bargaining upon request by the employee representative, even if the policy involves an inherent managerial right.

² Educator licensure replaced the previous system of certification on 7-1-2013. All Illinois teaching, administrative, and school service personnel certificates were converted to a corresponding license. Except as provided in ISBE rule §1.630, all new applicants for a paraprofessional credential must hold an educator license with stipulations endorsed for a paraprofessional educator (23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.630 and 25.510). See ISBE's explanation at: www.isbe.net/licensure/html/paraprofessional.htm.

~~**Important:** After the 2013-2014 school year, ISBE will no longer approve the use of speech language paraprofessionals. Educators who served as speech language paraprofessionals who wish to continue providing speech language services after the 2013-2014 school year must obtain a support personnel endorsement for a non-teaching, speech language pathologist (23 Ill.Admin.Code §§25.252) or qualify as a speech language pathologist intern (23 Ill.Admin.Code §§25.255), or speech language pathology assistant (105 ILCS 5/14-6.03).~~

A district may continue to use the term *teacher aide* to describe licensed personnel performing instructional support activities. In that situation, use the following alternative for the subhead and first paragraph:

Paraprofessionals and Licensed Teacher Aides

Paraprofessionals and licensed teacher aides provide supervised instructional support. Personnel performing instructional support activities must hold a current educator license with stipulations endorsed for a paraprofessional educator unless a specific exemption is authorized by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

If a district uses teacher aides to perform non-instructional support activities, *unlicensed teacher aides* may be inserted in the subhead for next section as follows: "Noncertificated and Unlicensed Personnel (Including Unlicensed Teacher Aides) Working with Students and Performing Non-Instructional Duties."

³ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.34; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.630 and 25.620 (student teaching). This paragraph is optional and maybe deleted if the board desires a streamlined policy.

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.34(a)(2).

2. As supervisors, chaperones, or sponsors for non-academic school activities; or ⁵
3. For non-teaching duties not requiring instructional judgment or student evaluation.⁶

Nothing in this policy prevents a noncertificated person from serving as a guest lecturer or resource person under a certificated teacher's direction and with the administration's approval. ⁷

Coaches and Athletic Trainers

Athletic coaches and trainers shall have the qualifications required by any association in which the School District maintains a membership.⁸ Regardless of whether the athletic activity is governed by an association, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each athletic coach: (1) is knowledgeable regarding coaching principles, (2) has first aid training, and (3) is a trained Automated External Defibrillator user according to rules adopted by the Illinois Department of Public Health.⁹ Anyone performing athletic training services shall be licensed under the Illinois Athletic Trainers Practice Act, be an athletic trainer aide performing care activities under the on-site supervision of a licensed athletic trainer, or otherwise be qualified to perform athletic trainer activities under State law.¹⁰

Bus Drivers

All school bus drivers must have a valid school bus driver permit.¹¹ The Superintendent or designee shall inform the Illinois Secretary of State, within 30 days of being informed by a school bus driver,

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⁵ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.34a; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.630(a).

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.34(a)(1); 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.630(a).

⁷ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.34b, last paragraph. Noncertificated personnel may be used to provide specialized instruction in a field that an individual is particularly qualified by reason of specialized knowledge or skill (23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.630(c)(3)(C)). Districts that frequently use noncertificated individuals to provide such instruction may consider adding the following optional sentence:

When appropriate, the Superintendent may seek approval from the responsible Regional Superintendent for a noncertificated individual to provide specialized instruction, that is not otherwise readily available in the school environment, in the field that the individual is particularly qualified by reason of specialized knowledge or skill.

⁸ A district should consult the handbooks and by-laws of the appropriate associations, e.g., the Illinois High School Association, the Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletic Association, and the Illinois Elementary School Association.

An optional sentence follows:

The coach for an extracurricular athletic activity sponsored or sanctioned by the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) at or above the ninth grade level must have completed the IHSA's educational program and competency testing on preventing abuse of performance-enhancing substances, provided the program is available.

⁹ Optional and may be amended. The first requirement identifies a basic competency, and the second two requirements are intended to ensure coaches are trained emergency responders. For AED training program requirements, see Automated External Defibrillator Act (410 ILCS 4/15) and Automated External Defibrillator Code (77 Ill.Admin.Code Part 525).

¹⁰ 225 ILCS 5/3 and 5/4.

¹¹ The regional superintendent is authorized to conduct school bus driver instruction courses and investigate whether persons hired to operate school buses have valid school bus driver permits (105 ILCS 5/3-14.23).

School bus driver permits are issued by the Secretary of State (625 ILCS 5/6-106.1). Districts must conduct a pre-employment interview with bus driver candidates, distribute bus driver applications and medical forms, and submit the applicant's fingerprint cards to the State Police for criminal background investigations. Districts must also certify in writing to the Secretary of State that all pre-employment conditions were completed, including an Illinois-specific criminal background investigation through the State Police and the submission of necessary fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for criminal history information (Id.). The applicant presents this certification to the Secretary of State when submitting the school bus driver permit application (Id.).

A school bus driver operating a school bus at the time of an accident is deemed by the implied consent law to agree to submit to tests at the direction of a law enforcement officer of the driver's breath, blood, or urine to determine the presence of alcohol, or other drugs, in the person's system (625 ILCS 5/6-516).

Anyone driving a bus chartered to transport students to or from interscholastic athletic or interscholastic or school-sponsored activities must have a valid school bus driver permit; this does not apply to any driver employed by a public

that the bus driver permit holder has been called to active duty.¹² New bus drivers and bus drivers who are returning from a lapse in their employment are subject to the requirements contained in Board policy 5:30, *Hiring Process and Criteria* and Board policy 5:285, *Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus and Commercial Vehicle Drivers*.

LEGAL REF.: ~~No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. §6319(e);~~
~~34 C.F.R. §§200.58 and 200.59;~~¹³
105 ILCS 5/10-22.34, 5/10-22.34a, and 5/10-22.34b.
625 ILCS 5/6-104 and 5/6-106.1.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.630 and 25.510.

CROSS REF.: 4:110 (Transportation), 4:170 (Safety), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:35 (Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act), 5:285 (Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus and Commercial Vehicle Drivers), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers)

Comment [MB2]: Still exist but have not been updated yet to align with ESEA as amended by ESSA, and no NPRM pending. We will continue to cite them, if appropriate, and note the discrepancy in a f/n. The PRESS Memo will note that federal ESSA rules are still pending, therefore this is fluid and will likely be updated multiple times.

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transportation provider when the bus is on a regularly scheduled route for transporting other fare-paying passengers (625 ILCS 5/6-104(d-5)).

¹² This sentence is optional, but the notification is required by 625 ILCS 5/6-106.1(h). *Active duty* is defined in the statute as active duty pursuant to an executive order of the U.S. President, an act of the Congress, or an order of the Governor. Upon notification, the Secretary of State will characterize the permit as inactive until a permit holder renews the permit pursuant to 625 ILCS 5/6-106.1(h).

¹³ The statute underlying these regulations (20 U.S.C. §6319) was repealed by the Every Student Succeeds Act, eff. 12-10-15; amendments to the regulations are highly likely within the next year.