

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Educator Certification Division
Illinois State Board of Education

TO: Regional Superintendents of Schools
State Approved Directors of Special Education
Nonpublic Special Education Facilities

DATE: April, 2008

SUBJECT: New Speech and Language Paraprofessional Approval Form
(ISBE 73-51)

The Educator Certification Division has created an application form specifically for speech and language paraprofessional approvals. The “[Request for Approval of a Speech and Language Paraprofessional](#)” form ISBE 73-51 was developed in an attempt to streamline the paraprofessional approval process. The paraprofessional approvals are often disapproved upon initial evaluation due to a lack of required documentation in the approval request. The format of ISBE 73-51 allows the district/joint agreement/nonpublic facility to supply specific information directly on the approval request form and includes prompts for additional required documentation. The “[Guidelines for Use of Speech and Language Paraprofessionals](#)” remains on the Certification Web site as a technical assistance document for the approval request process and the scope and limitations of the speech and language paraprofessional approvals.

The speech and language paraprofessional approval request option has been removed from forms ISBE 73-42 and ISBE 73-72. Those forms should still be utilized when requesting approvals for School Nurse Interns, Adapted Physical Education, School Psychologist Intern, and School Social Work Interns. The “[Request for Approval of a Speech and Language Paraprofessional](#)” form ISBE 73-51 is now available on the Certification Web site and can be utilized immediately for approval requests for the 2007-2008 school year. Approval requests for the 2008-2009 school year may be submitted no earlier than August 1, 2008.

It is our hope that the new form is beneficial to districts and joint agreements that must utilize the services of speech and language paraprofessionals. The following information is provided for your convenience.

- Form ISBE 73-51 is located at www.isbe.net/certification by accessing [Certification Forms](#) in the Quick Links box located on the right side of the Web page.
- The “[Guidelines for Use of Speech and Language Paraprofessionals](#)” is located at www.isbe.net/certification by accessing: Quick Links, A to Z Index, Speech and Language Paraprofessional Approvals.