



# Illinois State Board of Education

## What is a Paraprofessional?

Paraprofessionals play an essential role within school districts. Under the supervision of a licensed teacher, a paraprofessional supports teachers and students many ways. For instance, a paraprofessional can tutor students or assist the teacher with classroom management and organizing instructional materials.

### Option 1: Short-Term Approval for the Paraprofessional

*\*We are no longer accepting new applications for the Paraprofessional Short-Term Approval, but educators who hold the approval can continue to work on it.*

#### EMPLOYMENT

- ✓ Valid for 3 fiscal years\*
- ✓ Non-renewable
- ✓ Eligible to be employed as a paraprofessional full-time
- ✓ No limit on work days

*\*Before the 3 fiscal year period expires, you must apply for and receive the Educator License with Stipulations endorsed for Paraprofessional (the ELS-PARA) in order to continue serving as a paraprofessional.*

### Option 2: ELS-PARA

#### REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Must provide proof of **one** of the following:
  - Associate degree or higher
  - 60 semester hours of coursework
  - High school diploma/GED\*\* + score of 460 or higher on the ETS Parapro test
  - High school diploma/GED\*\* a score of 4 or higher on the ACT Workkeys Applied Mathematics and Reading for Information tests

*\*\*If you already hold the paraprofessional short-term approval, you do not need to resubmit your high school diploma/GED.*

#### HOW TO APPLY

- ✓ Login to ELIS [here](#).
- ✓ From the Action Center apply for a paraprofessional license
- ✓ Complete application and pay fee
- ✓ Submit a copy of test scores to [licensureforms@isbe.net](mailto:licensureforms@isbe.net) or your official transcripts to [transcripts@isbe.net](mailto:transcripts@isbe.net)

#### EMPLOYMENT

- ✓ Valid for five years
- ✓ Renewable
- ✓ Eligible to be employed as a paraprofessional full-time
- ✓ No limit on work days

Visit [www.isbe.net/licensure](http://www.isbe.net/licensure) for more information.