

**TEACHER ASSISTANTS/PARAPROFESSIONALS**

The Perry Board of Education employs teacher assistants for the school term only. All teacher assistants or paraprofessionals employed by the district will meet state, district, and federal standards. Every teacher assistant or paraprofessional will meet the standards required for Title I school-wide programs or for employment with Title I funds regardless of assignment. All teacher assistants or paraprofessionals, except those who are "personal assistants," must have:

1. Completed at least two years of study at an institution of higher education;
2. Obtained at least an associate's 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.

The district will hire **only** teacher assistants or paraprofessionals who meet these standards.

Exception to the higher education requirements may be made only with regard to paraprofessionals who act as translators or who coordinate parent involvement activities. Aides who are assigned to provide personal care services only are not considered teacher assistants or paraprofessionals under Title I and are not required to meet the qualification requirements. Special Education assistants who have instructional support duties are expected to meet the requirements.

Teacher assistants or paraprofessionals are employed so that the professional teachers may direct their energies to student learning. The basic objectives for the use of teacher assistants or paraprofessionals include:

1. To make it possible for teachers to use more variety in structuring classroom activities which will result in more meaningful education for children and youth.
2. To enable the teacher to do more creative teaching, and to use a greater variety of instructional media.
3. To enable the teacher to develop effective programs focusing upon the individual needs of each student.
4. To provide increased time for individualizing instruction, evaluating learning situations, student counseling and guidance for other instructional activities that will improve educational opportunities for boys and girls.
5. To relieve teachers of the numerous semi- and non-professional tasks which have become cumulative and which have come to consume a disproportionate amount of the teacher's time and energies.

The principal and supervising teacher are jointly responsible for making final decisions related to the duties and responsibilities to be assigned to an assistant. Assistants providing instructional support must work under the direct supervision of a teacher. Assistants are not to discipline children. Classroom discipline shall be left to the certified teacher or building principal.

**TEACHER ASSISTANTS/PARAPROFESSIONALS (CONT.)**

Teacher assistants will only be used to perform, or assist a classroom teacher to perform, the following duties:

- \* Hallroom duty
- \* Bus duty
- \* Playground duty
- \* Lunchroom duty
- \* Extracurricular activities involving school functions
- \* Other noninstructional duties as the superintendent may prescribe

The duties of teacher assistants may be further restricted or regulated by program requirements of the funding plan under which they are employed.

**REFERENCE: 70 O.S. §6-127, §18-113.1, et seq.**