

# Para-educators and NCLB

To: Paraeducators and supervisors

From: George Miller, USOE Educational Specialist

Date: 11/26/2002

Re: Information about Para-educators and the No Child Left Behind Act

## What's Happening?

- No Child Left Behind Legislation requires schools to have “highly qualified” paraeducators by Jan 2005. No new hires unless qualified.
  - 2 year Associate of Arts degree.
  - 48 semester hours of college work.
  - Met a rigorous standard of quality and be able to demonstrate, through a formal State or local academic assessment, knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing reading, writing, and mathematics or, as appropriate, in reading readiness, writing readiness, and mathematics readiness.
- Survey of districts.
  - Reveals that para's are unsure and even unwilling to participate in “a test.”
  - Districts are trying to help para's. Training, in-service.
- Three tests to be reviewed.
  - ACT WorkKeys---Found unsuitable...did not rise to the spirit of the law.
  - ETS ParaPro—Standards Setting with Idaho and Nevada educators in SLC on Nov 14 to determine the appropriate test and questions. Statistical analysis. Paid by ETS. Invitations sent to 15 Utah Para-educators and supervisors.
  - Western Governor's University...Quite rigorous. More than what is required. Will do a preliminary evaluation on Oct 23 at Jordan ASB. See <http://www.wgu.edu/studyguide/index.asp>
- **CACTUS** is being used to “track” all Para-educators. Entering information now from all districts.
- Resources for Para-educators and others...
  - <http://www.utahpara.org/paralinks.html> Utah Para educator Website.
  - <http://www.nrcpara.org/> National Resource Center for Paraeducators
  - [gtmiller@usoe.k12.ut.us](mailto:gtmiller@usoe.k12.ut.us) George Miller, Educational Specialist at USOE. 801-538-7790
    - Handouts, CACTUS forms, coordination for testing, ??'s

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**