

**ESHB 1277** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education

**ADOPTED 02/29/2024**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature acknowledges that it  
4 created the paraeducator board to adopt standards of practice and  
5 required school districts to provide to paraeducators a four-day  
6 fundamental course of study on the standards to paraeducators. The  
7 legislature finds that it required that at least one day of the  
8 fundamental course of study be provided in person due to the benefits  
9 of in-person instruction, including that instructors can confirm the  
10 participant's application of learning objectives.

11 (2) The legislature recognizes that paraeducators benefit from  
12 in-person training that is part of the hiring and onboarding process.  
13 The legislature intends to expand this benefit by generally requiring  
14 two days of the fundamental course of study be provided to  
15 paraeducators in person. The legislature recognizes that an exemption  
16 from this in-person requirement is necessary for some small school  
17 districts that experience barriers to providing the fundamental  
18 course of study in person due to long commute times for  
19 paraeducators, irregular hiring dates in small school districts, and  
20 other extenuating circumstances.

21 (3) However, it is the intent of the legislature to ensure that  
22 all paraeducators in Washington receive high quality and consistent  
23 professional development through the fundamental course of study,  
24 with a significant majority of paraeducators being trained in person.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.413  
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 (1) By July 1, 2025, the board must update rules on the  
28 implementation of the fundamental course of study under RCW  
29 28A.413.060 to require that a significant majority of paraeducators  
30 are provided with the course in person. Under the rules, the board  
31 may grant an exemption from the in-person requirement of RCW

1 28A.413.060 for second-class school districts hiring paraeducators  
2 after the beginning of the school year.

3 (2) By July 1, 2025, the board must publish guidance for school  
4 districts on how to provide the fundamental course of study under RCW  
5 28A.413.060 to improve the consistency and quality of staff  
6 development.

7 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.413.060 and 2019 c 268 s 3 are each amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 (1) School districts must implement this section only in school  
10 years for which state funding is appropriated specifically for the  
11 purposes of this section and only for the number of days that are  
12 funded by the appropriation.

13 (2) (a) School districts must provide a four-day fundamental  
14 course of study on the state standards of practice, as defined by the  
15 board, to paraeducators who have not completed the course, either in  
16 the district or in another district within the state. ~~((At least one  
17 day of the fundamental course of study must be provided in person.))~~

18 (b) School districts must use best efforts to provide the  
19 fundamental course of study before the paraeducator begins to work  
20 with students and their families, and at a minimum by the following  
21 deadlines ~~((provided in subsection (3) of this section.~~

22 ~~(3) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, school  
23 districts must provide the fundamental course of study required in  
24 subsection (2) of this section by the deadlines provided in (a) of  
25 this subsection)):~~

26 ~~((a))~~ (i) For paraeducators hired ~~((on or~~) before ~~((September  
27 1st))~~ the beginning of the school year, the first two days of the  
28 fundamental course of study must be provided ~~((by September 30th of  
29 that year))~~ in person before the beginning of the school year and the  
30 second two days of the fundamental course of study must be provided  
31 within six months of the date of hire ~~((, regardless of the size of  
32 the district)); and~~

33 (ii) For paraeducators hired after ~~((September 1st))~~ the  
34 beginning of the school year:

35 (A) For paraeducators hired by first-class districts ~~((with ten  
36 thousand or more students)),~~ the first two days of the fundamental  
37 course of study must be provided in person within four months of the  
38 date of hire and the second two days of the fundamental course of

1 study must be provided within six months of the date of hire or by  
2 September 1st of the following year, whichever is sooner; and

3 (B) For paraeducators hired by second-class districts (~~(with~~  
4 ~~fewer than ten thousand students)~~), the four-day fundamental course  
5 of study must be provided no later than September 1st of the  
6 following year, with two of the days provided in person unless the  
7 district has applied for and received an exemption under section 2 of  
8 this act.

9 ~~((b)(i) For paraeducators hired for the 2018-19 school year, by~~  
10 ~~September 1, 2020; and~~

11 ~~(ii) For paraeducators not hired for the 2018-19 school year, but~~  
12 ~~hired for the 2019-20 school year, by September 1, 2021.~~

13 ~~(4))~~ (3) School districts may collaborate with other school  
14 districts or educational service districts to meet the requirements  
15 of this section."

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16 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "paraeducators;" strike the  
17 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 28A.413.060; adding a  
18 new section to chapter 28A.413 RCW; and creating a new section."

EFFECT: Amends deadlines by which the Paraeducator Board must:  
(1) Update rules on the implementation of the fundamental course of  
study to require that a significant majority of paraeducators are  
provided with the course in person; and (2) publish guidance for  
school districts on how to provide the fundamental course of study to  
improve the consistency and quality of staff development.

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