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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1015**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Santos, Ybarra, Bergquist, Stonier, Leavitt, Rude, Jacobsen, Simmons, Reed, Lekanoff, Goodman, Pollet, Ortiz-Self, Callan, Doglio, Reeves, Tharinger, Wylie, Paul, Thai, Springer, and Ormsby; by request of Professional Educator Standards Board)

READ FIRST TIME 01/30/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to minimum employment requirements for  
2 paraeducators; and amending RCW 28A.413.040 and 28A.413.030.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.413.040 and 2018 c 153 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1)(a) A person working as a paraeducator for a school district  
7 before or during the 2017-18 school year must meet the requirements  
8 of subsection (2) of this section by the date of hire for the 2019-20  
9 school year or any subsequent school year.

10 (b) A person who has not previously worked as a paraeducator for  
11 a school district must meet the requirements of subsection (2) of  
12 this section by the date of hire for the 2018-19 school year or any  
13 subsequent school year.

14 (2) The minimum employment requirements for paraeducators are as  
15 provided in this subsection. A paraeducator must:

16 (a) Be at least ~~((eighteen))~~ 18 years of age and hold a high  
17 school diploma or its equivalent; and

18 (b) Meet one of the following requirements:

19 (i) Have received a passing ~~((grade))~~ score on ~~((the education~~  
20 ~~testing service paraeducator assessment))~~ one of the assessments  
21 approved by the board; ~~((or))~~

- 1 (ii) Hold an associate of arts degree; (~~(e)~~)  
2 (iii) Have earned (~~(seventy-two)~~) 72 quarter credits or (~~(forty-~~  
3 ~~eight)~~) 48 semester credits at an institution of higher education; or  
4 (iv) Have completed a registered apprenticeship program.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.413.030 and 2017 c 237 s 4 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The paraeducator board has the following powers and duties:

8 (a) Based on the recommendations of the paraeducator work group  
9 established in chapter 136, Laws of 2014, adopt: (i) Minimum  
10 employment requirements for paraeducators, as described in RCW  
11 28A.413.040; and (ii) paraeducator standards of practice, as  
12 described in RCW 28A.413.050;

13 (b) Adopt one or more assessments that meet a rigorous standard  
14 of quality and can be used to demonstrate knowledge of, and the  
15 ability to assist in, instruction in reading, writing, and  
16 mathematics, as well as set a passing score for each assessment  
17 adopted. The board may develop assessments to meet the requirement of  
18 this subsection (1)(b);

19 (c) Establish requirements and policies for a general  
20 paraeducator certificate, as described in RCW 28A.413.070;

21 (~~(e)~~) (d) Based on the recommendations of the paraeducator work  
22 group established in chapter 136, Laws of 2014, establish  
23 requirements and policies for subject matter certificates in English  
24 language learner and special education, as described in RCW  
25 28A.413.080;

26 (~~(d)~~) (e) Based on the recommendations of the paraeducator work  
27 group established in chapter 136, Laws of 2014, establish  
28 requirements and policies for an advanced paraeducator certificate,  
29 as described in RCW 28A.413.090;

30 (~~(e)~~) (f) By September 1, 2018, approve, and develop if  
31 necessary, courses required to meet the provisions of this chapter,  
32 where the courses are offered in a variety of means that will limit  
33 cost and improve access;

34 (~~(f)~~) (g) Make policy recommendations, as necessary, for a  
35 paraeducator career ladder that will increase opportunities for  
36 paraeducator advancement through advanced education, professional  
37 learning, and increased instructional responsibility;

1        (~~(g)~~) (h) Collaborate with the office of the superintendent of  
2 public instruction to adapt the electronic educator certification  
3 process to include paraeducator certificates; and

4        (~~(h)~~) (i) Adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that are  
5 necessary for the effective and efficient implementation of this  
6 chapter.

7        (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall act as the  
8 administrator of any such rules and have the power to issue any  
9 paraeducator certificates and revoke the same in accordance with  
10 board rules.

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