



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Superintendents and Special Education Directors

From: Dr. Nancy Holsapple, Director of Special Education

Date: July 7, 2023

Subject: Special Education Paraprofessional Training Grant

The Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE's) Office of Special Education will provide funding to school corporations, charter schools, state schools, and special education cooperatives, joint services, and interlocals to ensure that paraprofessionals, as defined in 511 Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) 7-32-69, receive training to assist students with disabilities. Total grant awards will range from \$5,000 to \$25,000 based on the number of complete and accurate grant applications received. No late or incomplete applications will be accepted. Applicants will receive written acknowledgement for successful applications submitted on time. Notification of the grant award amount will be provided following the review and approval process.

Article 7: 511 IAC 7-32-69 "Paraprofessional" defined Sec. 69.

"Paraprofessional" means an individual who works under the supervision and direction of licensed teachers or related service personnel to assist in areas that relate to personal, social, and instructional needs. The term includes, but is not limited to, the following: (1) Instructional or program assistants (2) School bus monitors (3) Interpreters (4) Note takers (5) Job coaches.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Section 1412 (a) (14)

(iii) allow paraprofessionals and assistants who are appropriately trained and supervised, in accordance with state law, regulation, or written policy, in meeting the requirements of this subchapter, to be used to assist in the provision of special education and related services under this subchapter to children with disabilities.

This grant provides funding to support paraprofessional training that is focused on the following areas in special education:

- Strengthening paraprofessional capacity and learning on learner development and individual learning differences;
- Strengthening paraprofessional capacity and implementation of strategies to address instructional supports and strategies;
- Strengthening paraprofessional capacity and learning of multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) and/or positive behavioral interventions and support;
- Strengthening paraprofessional capacity and knowledge of transportation safety;
- Strengthening paraprofessional capacity and knowledge of assistive technologies;

- Strengthening paraprofessional capacity and knowledge of support for students with medical needs.

Applicants are encouraged to consider multi-faceted approaches to building capacity, which could include taking advantage of various training types, employing substitutes while paraprofessionals participate in training, providing materials that help trained paraprofessionals stay current and build on knowledge and skills obtained from training, and sharing information from trainings with all paraprofessional staff through local train-the-trainer approaches.

All Special Education Paraprofessional Training Grant applicants must complete the budget and narrative provided by IDOE for this purpose. *No modifications to these grant budgets will be possible due to the short grant period from Tuesday, August 1, through May 31, 2024.*

Grant recipients are strongly encouraged to submit paraprofessional grant reimbursement requests as funds are expended for items in the approved grant budget rather than at the close of the grant period. Email all paraprofessional training grant reimbursement requests to para@doe.in.gov.

Grant Timeline	
Thursday, July 6	Grant application opens
Monday, July 10	Grant Kickoff Informational Meeting
Friday, September 18	Grant application deadline
Tuesday, August 1, through May 31, 2024	Grant period
As funds are expended.	Grant reimbursement requests due*

*All reimbursement requests must be submitted no later than 60 days after May 31, 2024.

Apply for the Special Education Paraprofessional Training Grant [here](#). Please contact para@doe.in.gov with questions.