

Highly Qualified Paraeducator Requirements under IDEA 2004

The highly qualified paraeducator requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004) call for paraeducator qualifications to be “consistent with any state-approved or state-recognized certification, licensing, registration, or other comparable requirements that apply to the professional discipline in which those personnel are providing special education or related services.” Under IDEA 2004, Iowa paraeducators who provide services to students with disabilities do not have any certification requirements because Iowa’s state-approved system for paraeducators certification is voluntary.