

**Instruction Sheet – AASB POLICY REFERENCE MANUAL UPDATE SERVICE
2015-2016 UPDATE INSTRUCTION SHEET**

FIRST READING December 13, 2016

NOTE: This packet includes only those policy manual pages that have been revised, deleted or newly established. Full text pages are included and are to be substituted as indicated below.

For ease of School Boards, AASB has identified those portions of the Update that require formal Board action in order to implement the policy changes. This is indicated by a “Yes” or “No.” A “No” is used if changes have been made only to an AR or an Exhibit, or if policy changes are limited to explanatory notes, legal reference or cross-reference updates, or minor grammatical or stylistic changes that have not changed the policy meaning.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR THE 2015-16 UPDATE: Several policies included in this update are based on changes to federal and state law that are not effective until the 2017-2018 school year. These policies are identified below with the notation “Delayed Implementation Note.” Accordingly, districts need not adopt these policy revisions until a later date, if delayed adoption is desired. If the policy is adopted prior to the effective date of the law, districts will need to be in compliance with the policy requirements.

Replace/Add	Formal Adoption Required	Description
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ARTICLE 4, Series 4000 – Personnel

BP/AP/Æ 4222	Yes (BP)	TEACHER AIDES/PARAPROFESSIONALS The policy language and notes have been updated to remove language referring to paraprofessional qualifications as required by No Child Left Behind Act. NCLB has been replaced with the Every Student Succeeds Act which no longer specifies federal qualifications for paraprofessionals working in Title I programs. The AP has also been updated to remove a requirement for NCLB reporting. Additional language changes have been made to the AP. <i>The Exhibit is removed in its entirety.</i> It reflects NCLB requirements and is no longer applicable.
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TEACHER AIDES/PARAPROFESSIONALS

BP 4222

Note: Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, NCLB's requirements establishing minimum professional standards for paraprofessionals have been repealed. Now, paraprofessionals in Title I supported programs must meet licensure or certification requirements as adopted by the State of Alaska.

The School Board favors the use of paid and volunteer teacher aides/paraprofessionals and considers them to be members of a professional team dedicated to the best interests of students. By relieving teachers of duties that do not require professional training, noncertificated persons allow teachers to dedicate their skills, knowledge and efforts primarily to teaching. Paraprofessionals also can help teachers to provide individualized student instruction and an enriched educational program.

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

The district shall use paraprofessionals in those classes where they will provide the greatest benefit to students, taking into consideration such factors as large class size, student age group and teacher workload.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all paraprofessionals have appropriate training and supervision.

Note: Special Education aides must serve under the supervision of qualified personnel and receive training in accordance with 4 AAC 52.250.

Paraprofessionals are expected to employ high ethical standards as they work with students and to respect school rules, district policies and administrative ~~regulations~~ **procedures**.

The School Board recognizes the need for qualified teaching staff and encourages paraprofessionals to seek opportunities leading to a teaching credential. The district shall support these efforts to the extent possible, particularly as they relate to obtaining bilingual or special education credentials.

The Superintendent or designee and/or the staff development committee shall develop an appropriate professional development program for paraprofessionals.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

4 AAC 05.080 School curriculum and personnel

4 AAC 52.250 Special education aides

4 AAC 52.255 Interpreters

UNITED STATES CODE

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 6311, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, (P.L. 114-95 (December 10, 2015))

Revised 3/2016

TEACHER AIDES/PARAPROFESSIONALS

AP 4222(a)

Note: The following sample regulation may be revised or deleted as desired
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Paraprofessionals are auxiliary personnel who work directly with professional educators to assist them in discharging their professional duties. Instructional aides, tutors, noontime assistants, and various similar categories, both volunteer and paid, are included within the definition of paraprofessionals.

Purpose of the Paraprofessional Aide Programs -- Volunteer and Paid

Purposes of the paraprofessional aide programs are to:

1. assist teachers in providing more individualization and enrichment of instruction to their classes
2. relieve teachers of many nonteaching duties and tasks
3. build an understanding of school problems among citizens, thus stimulating widespread involvement in the total education process

Kinds of Services Provided

The kinds of services which paraprofessionals perform will vary according to local building site needs. Services generally fall into one or more of the following areas:

1. relieving the professional of clerical, noninstructional, house-keeping, and/or certain instructional tasks
2. assisting in classroom management
3. giving special aid to students with difficulties such as English as a second language, which may include acting as a translator
4. giving special aid to students with exceptional talents
5. enriching the curriculum in areas requiring special skills or unique experiences
6. providing instructional support services which may include one-on-one tutoring if scheduled at a time when the student wouldn't otherwise receive instruction from a teacher

Responsibilities of the Principal

The principal's responsibilities include:

1. responsibility for both volunteer and paid paraprofessional aide programs at his/her site
2. organization of the programs within the school
3. promotion of good staff-paraprofessional aide relationships
4. responsibility for evaluation of the paraprofessionals at his/her site

TEACHER AIDES/PARAPROFESSIONALS (continued)

AP 4222(b)

Responsibilities of the Teacher or Staff Person using a Paraprofessional

Responsibilities of staff using aides include the following:

1. become familiar with paraprofessional aide programs and their materials through orientation sessions
2. direct and supervise each aide
3. provide guidance for each aide
4. determine specific duties to be undertaken
5. work cooperatively with others in charge of the programs
6. implement the key pointers described in the handbooks for teachers and staff

Responsibilities of Paraprofessional Aides - Volunteer and Paid

Paraprofessionals are members of a professional team dedicated to working for the best interests of students. All members of the team are expected to be loyal, courteous, cooperative, industrious, dependable, and committed to the highest ethical standards.

Responsibility to the Student

Responsibility to the student imposes the following obligations:

1. assuring the school that any personal information about the student will remain confidential
2. enjoying the working relationships with students and valuing their achievements, however modest they may be

Responsibility to the Paraprofessional Programs

Responsibility to the program imposes the following obligations:

1. being able to accept differences in people, values, standards, goals, ambitions, and having respect for individual integrity
2. maintaining consistent and regular attendance
3. being reliable and flexible
4. having sufficient sense of organizational procedures to be able to accept discipline while working happily within the established structure and policies of the school

TEACHER AIDES/PARAPROFESSIONALS (continued)

AP 4222(c)

5. being willing to acquire skills needed to be of value to the school programs
6. discussing any specific problems with the supervising staff member or the principal
7. using discretion in commenting on school matters, including the performance of individual paraprofessionals or other school personnel

Responsibility to the School

The responsibility to the school imposes the following obligations:

1. recognition that the professional staff will specify the tasks aides will perform, the authority aides will be given, and the information and materials aides will use
2. understanding that regulations and procedures of the school are to be followed at all times

Responsibility to Self

Responsibility to self requires each paraprofessional to:

1. maintain positive attitudes
2. accept the responsibility to help all students develop positive self-esteem
3. be responsible for his/her own actions
4. know his/her role and be able to express what that role is to the community in a positive manner
5. maintain personal cleanliness
6. wear appropriate clothing (avoiding extremes)
7. use appropriate language
8. give full cooperation to the total school staff

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