

PARAEDUCATOR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Standards of practice and professional
development for Washington paraeducators

FUNDAMENTAL COURSE OF STUDY (FCS)



- **Details:** The FCS covers the new paraeducator standards of practice. School districts must provide this training to all instructional paraeducators.
- **Training time:** 28 hours
- **Requirements:** Required beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

The FCS and the general certificate are only required trainings if funded by the Legislature.

GENERAL PARAEDUCATOR CERTIFICATE



- **Details:** This certificate helps improve instructional practices. School districts must provide this training to all instructional paraeducators.
- **Training time:** 70 hours
- **Expiration:** This certificate does not expire.
- **Requirements:** Required within three years of completing the FCS.

SUBJECT MATTER CERTIFICATES

English Language Learner

- **Details:** The English Language Learner certificate offers coursework in topics such as language acquisition, cultural competence, and instructional strategies. Paraeducators may allocate certificate hours towards the attainment of the general certificate.
- **Training time:** 20 hours
- **Expiration:** Five years. Renewable.
- **Requirements:** This certificate is not a requirement for employment. Paraeducators must first complete the FCS.



Special Education

- **Details:** The Special Education certificate offers coursework in topics such as special education processes, culturally responsive strategies, and behavioral support. Paraeducators may allocate certificate hours towards the attainment of the general certificate.
- **Training time:** 20 hours
- **Expiration:** Five years. Renewable.
- **Requirements:** This certificate is not a requirement for employment. Paraeducators must first complete the FCS.

ADVANCED PARAEDUCATOR CERTIFICATE



- **Details:** The advanced certificate offers additional professional development on the following duties: assisting high-impact classrooms, supporting specialized instruction, and mentoring other paraeducators.
- **Training time:** 75 hours
- **Expiration:** Five years. Renewable.
- **Requirements:** This certificate is not a requirement for employment. Paraeducators must first complete the FCS and general certificate.

