

Utah State Board of Education Rules R277-526

PARAEDUCATOR to TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (PETTS) INFO SHEET

Purpose: To distribute funds to paraeducators seeking to become licensed educators and to establish application and accountability procedures to provide funding to prospective educators directly and fairly. *NOTE: PETTS funds are available to paraeducators with fewer than 60 credits or up to an associate's degree (If the applicant has an Associate's degree, they are not eligible to apply for this scholarship). Those with a Bachelors' degree or more are not eligible.*

Definition of "paraeducator": For purposes of this rule, means a school employee who:

- Delivers instruction under the direct supervision of a teacher; and
- Works in an area where there is a shortage of qualified teachers, such as special education, Title I, English as a second language, reading remediation, math, or science.

Definition of "scholarship": For purposes of this rule means funds provided by the Board directly to a paraeducator to pay only for the actual and documented costs for tuition toward an associate's or bachelor's degree program to become a licensed teacher.

A scholarship applicant shall:

- Be employed for a minimum of 10 hours per week by a public school LEA at the time of application for the paraeducator scholarship or during the current school year.
- Access and complete an application found at:
<http://www.schools.utah.gov/sars/Programs-Areas/Paraeducators.aspx>
- Provide email for notification and accountability purposes.
- Provide university transcripts if the paraeducator is applying for a continuation scholarship.
- Provide tuition cost information on the application based on the most recent information available from a Utah institution for higher education to which the applicant has either been admitted or completed an application.
- Submit completed application to the principal, charter school administrator, or human resource representative designated by the LEA where they are currently employed for confirmation of employment status.

An LEA shall:

- Designate an administrator e.g., principal, charter school administrator, or human resource representative to:
 - Receive applications
 - Confirm employment status
 - Rank applications of qualified paraeducators with the LEA in priority order
 - Submit applications to the USOE Attn: Aileen Pace by 5:00 p.m. May 15th

Scholarship committee: A PETTS committee, consisting of one Board member, one representative of the Board of Regents, one representative of the UEA, and two additional representatives designated by the Board, shall:

- Receive completed and ranked applications from LEAs.
- Determine funding for applicants from applications received from LEAs after considering the number of applications received and the amount of funding available.
- Develop and consider the following selection criteria:
 - Support from the recommending LEA/charter school
 - Geographical distribution of recipients
- Provide names of scholarship recipients to the Board for review and comment by August, annually.
- Provide a summary of results to the Board upon request.

A scholarship recipient shall:

- Remain continuously employed
- Provide documentation of progress toward graduation, e.g., grades and transcripts
- Reimburse the Board for the amount of scholarship funding if he/she does not remain employed for the duration of the scholarship period or who does not satisfactorily complete funded courses.

Scholarship recipients and LEAs whose employees receive funding, shall cooperate on any assessment required by the board.

Timelines/Contact Information:

May 1 st	Submit completed applications to LEA administration
May 15 th	LEA submits completed and ranked applications to the USOE by 5:00 p.m.
3 rd week in May	Committee meets to determine scholarship awards
May 31 st	Scholarship award recipients are notified via email
June 5 th	Applicants not receiving scholarship are notified via email

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