



Every Student Succeeds Act

## Paraeducator Empowerment

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**The Every Student Succeeds Act ensures that paraeducators’ voices are part of decision-making at the federal, state, and local levels—a major improvement over No Child Left Behind’s one-size-fits-all approach to educating students.**

### KEY PROVISIONS

- ▶ **Moves decision-making** to the people who know the names of the students they educate while maintaining supports that ensure ZIP codes do not determine the quality of education.
- ▶ Incentivizes supports and interventions that are **tailored to local needs** while preserving the historic federal role in protecting the most vulnerable: children in poverty, students with disabilities, and English-language learners
- ▶ Maintains **paraeducator qualification requirements** in Title I of the current law
- ▶ Promotes **respect for the profession** and acknowledges the critical role it plays in education by adopting the NEA-endorsed term “paraeducator”
- ▶ Calls for committees of practitioners where **paraeducators, teachers, parents, and community members** can work together to improve their local schools
- ▶ Requires **paraeducator voices** in multiple places, including sections on professional development, needs assessment, and the use of some grant funds
- ▶ Expands the reach of **collective bargaining** to cover:
  - Targeted school supports and improvements in Title I
  - Professional development, pay based on professional growth, the Teacher and School Leader Incentive Program (formerly called TIF), and all other provisions of contracts impacted by Title II
  - Community schools in Title IV
- ▶ Requires consultation with organizations representing educators in multiple places, ensuring that **paraeducators and their local unions** have a say in decision-making