



HARRISON COUNTY SCHOOLS

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Aides

FROM: Assistant Superintendent Donna D. Hage, NBCT

RE: Senate Bill 359 Changes to Kindergarten Aide Requirements 

DATE: February 19, 2014

The following attachments are provided to all Harrison County service personnel with the classification of aide for informational purposes. It includes information related to Senate Bill 359 changes to Kindergarten Aide Requirements. If you are currently or plan to become a kindergarten aide during your career in West Virginia, the following information may be of use to you.

According to Senate Bill 359 18-5-18, any person employed in a kindergarten program on or after July 1, 2014 will be classified into three areas as an Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher: 1) Temporary Authorization, 2) Permanent Authorization, or 3) Paraprofessional Certificate. A Temporary Authorization is granted when an aide is pursuing requirements. A Permanent Authorization indicates he/she completed minimum requirements for a state-awarded certificate or exceeds requirements for a Child Development Associate (CDA). The West Virginia Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialists (ACDS) or the WV Learns Early Childhood Online Learning Series (3 Key Courses) are equivalent. Finally, the Paraprofessional Certificate is awarded to one who met Permanent Authorization as well as additional requirements.

Kindergarten aides must be enrolled in a pathway to one of the three credentialed options during their employment. Please refer to the attachments for specific pathways available to you based upon your current position and/or classification. Upon employment as a kindergarten aide, an employee has two (2) years to finish or be able to show progress annually.

If a person is eligible for full retirement benefits before July 1, 2020, he/she may remain employed as an aide *in that position* and may not be required to obtain the above licensure. If you have questions, contact Early Childhood Coordinator Lisa Ray.

CC: Early Childhood Coordinator Lisa Ray

Kindergarten
Classroom Assistant Teachers

Yes

Do you have a CDA or ACDS? OR have a 2 year or 4 year college degree in Early Childhood or a Paraprofessional (that includes Early Childhood Language and Literacy, Early Childhood Special Needs, and Child Development)?

No

No additional courses required – Apply for Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher Credential beginning July 1, 2014.

Yes

Are you eligible for full retirement benefits before July 1, 2020?

No

Enroll in Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential

OR

Enroll in WV Apprenticeship for Child Development (ACDS)

OR

Enroll in WV Early Childhood E-Learning in areas not yet completed: *Early Childhood Language and Literacy, Early Childhood Special Needs, and Child Development*

Must be enrolled or pursuing by 7/1/14 or upon hire
Must finish within 2 years and be able to show progress annually
<http://wvde.state.wv.us/oel/elearning.php>