

Forsyth County Schools

NCLB HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

TEACHERS

“To be considered ‘highly qualified’ to teach in the State of Georgia, teachers must be fully **certified to teach** by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (**hold a clear, renewable Georgia certificate**) and be **teaching in their field(s)** of certification. *It should be noted that in some instances a teacher who is “highly qualified” may not necessarily be fully certified with a clear, renewable certificate.*

Who must meet this requirement?

NCLB: All teachers teaching core academic subjects (as well as special education teachers in a resource room or regular setting) including remedial, instructional extension, evening, or summer school classes must be highly qualified. Core academic subjects include English, reading, language arts, mathematics, broad-field science, foreign languages, broad-field social studies, and the arts (band, chorus, visual arts, and music). Any teacher who teaches any core academic subject for any part of the day must be highly qualified to teach that subject.

Georgia PSC: All teachers must be certified and in-field all day; there is no longer a “minor part of the day” provision.

Forsyth County: Forsyth County desires that all teachers hold clear, renewable certificates and are assigned only in their areas of certification. Circumstances may occur when teachers are hired who may not meet all the requirements to be considered highly qualified or fully certified. In these cases, these teachers will be required to complete all certification requirements during their first year of employment with Forsyth County Schools.

PARAPROFESSIONALS

NCLB: Paraprofessionals working in schools supported by Title I funds must be highly qualified. A **highly qualified** paraprofessional must (1) have completed at least 2 years of study at an institution of higher education (60 semester hours) OR (2) hold an Associate’s Degree OR (3) have passed the Georgia or ETS paraprofessional assessment.

Georgia PSC: All paraprofessionals working in Georgia schools must have a professional certificate issued by the Professional Standards Commission. A PSC certificate requires a minimum of a GED.

Forsyth County: Any newly hired paraprofessionals must be highly qualified before becoming employed with Forsyth County Schools.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

NCLB: Long-term substitute is a person who is teaching a core academic class for a period of 4 consecutive weeks (20 consecutive school days) or more in a school receiving Title I funds.

Georgia PSC: Teachers who are long-term substitutes are considered “highly qualified” teachers if they hold a clear, renewable Georgia certificate in the field in which they are teaching. Any teacher vacancy that lasts 46 or more consecutive days in a school year must be filled with a certified in-field teacher, except in situations where longer periods of time are required by state or federal law. Substitute teachers who hold only a high school diploma or GED cannot work in any classroom more than 10 consecutive days.

Forsyth County: Long-term substitutes in all schools must be “highly qualified” before an assignment is made.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

For the 2007-2008 school year, all schools were required to notify parents if their child had been taught by a teacher or substitute who is not highly qualified. Notification is not required for not “highly qualified” paraprofessionals.

References From: The Georgia Implementation Guidelines

<http://www.gapsc.com/nclb/Admin/File/ImpPolicy.pdf>

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

Title II, Part A

Criteria for “Highly Qualified” Teachers

(Revised September 2006)

TEACHERS

- 3.01** To be considered “highly qualified” to teach in the State of Georgia, teachers must be **fully certified to teach** by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and be **teaching in their field(s)** of certification.
- 4.01** Core academic subjects include English, reading, language arts, mathematics, broad-field science (such as physics, biology, or chemistry), foreign languages, broad-field social studies (such as civics and government, economics, history, geography), and the arts (visual arts, music, band, and chorus). (See Title IX General Provisions, Part A, Section 9101 Definitions). Dance and drama are not considered core academic subjects in Georgia. All teachers teaching a core academic subject, including remedial, extended day, evening or summer school classes, must be “highly qualified” to teach the subject.
- 4.02** Teachers who teach core academic subjects include elementary (K-5) teachers, middle grades (4-8), and secondary teachers (6-12) who teach any of the subjects listed in 4.01. This includes special education, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), technical/vocational, health/physical education and any other teacher who is the teacher of record for any of the core academic subjects listed above. All teachers who teach core academic subjects must be “highly qualified” (i.e. must meet the content or testing requirements for each core academic subject they teach.)

PARAPROFESSIONALS

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires that all paraprofessionals who work in a program supported by Title I funds (Schoolwide Program or Targeted Assistance Program) be “highly qualified.” [*Title II, Part A, Section 1119*]. “Highly qualified” paraprofessional requirements do not apply to those working in pre-kindergarten classrooms unless the position is funded by Title I (Schoolwide Programs and Targeted Assistance Programs).

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

- 9.17** Teachers who are long-term substitutes are not considered “highly qualified” teachers unless they are fully certified in Georgia in the field in which they are teaching.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

- 2.2** LEAs are required to notify parents that they may request information regarding the teacher’s professional qualifications, including the following:
- *Whether the teacher has met the Georgia Professional Standards Commission requirements for certification for the grade level and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
 - *Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which Georgia qualifications or certification criteria have been waived;
 - *The college major and any graduate certification or degree held by the teacher;
 - *Whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.
- 2.03** LEAs are required to notify parents if a teacher who is not “highly qualified” is teaching their child a core academic content course. Parental notification is required if a teacher who is not “highly qualified” teaches their child for four consecutive weeks or more. Parental notification is not required for teachers who are not teacher of record for core academic subjects. Parent notification is not required for paraprofessionals who are not “highly qualified.” Please note that effective 2006-2007, the parent notification requirement applies to teachers who teach core academic content subjects in Title I and Non-Title I schools and programs.