

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District Personnel Administrators  
District Title I Coordinators

**FROM:** Mary Hipp  
Director, Office of Educator Services

**DATE:** August 26, 2025

**RE:** ParaPathways Adoption

Pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, all instructional paraeducators (i.e., paraprofessionals) working in Title I schools or targeted assistance programs must have earned a secondary school diploma (or its equivalent) and meet at least one of the following requirements:

- at least two years of study (60 semester hours) at an accredited institution of higher education; or
- an associate's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education; or
- a qualifying score on a state-approved assessment that measures the individual's knowledge of and ability to assist in instruction at the appropriate level.

In 2003, the State Board of Education approved the ParaPro assessment administered by Educational Testing Service (ETS) as the basic skills assessment for the qualification of paraeducators in South Carolina. The ParaPro test (1755) consists of three content categories: Reading, Mathematics, and Writing.

Recently, ETS has completed the redesign of its paraeducator assessment and will launch the new assessment and support materials beginning September 1, 2025. ParaPathways (5757) is intended for individuals seeking to become paraeducators supporting classroom teachers. ParaPathways consists of two subtests, Reading and Writing (5758) and Mathematics (5759), and is designed to “assesses whether the paraeducator possesses the essential skills necessary to help students develop foundational skills in reading, writing, and mathematics” (ETS, ParaPathways Test at a Glance, preliminary draft).

On August 5, 2025, the State Board of Education approved the adoption of ParaPathways as the basic skills assessment for the qualification of paraeducators. The subtests and passing scores are indicated below.

- Reading and Writing (5758): The adopted passing score is 332 on a 310–350 point scale. This scaled score represents a raw score of 28 out of a possible 45 points.
- Mathematics (5759): The adopted passing score is 334 on a 310–350 point scale. This scaled score represents a raw score of 20 out of a possible 30 points.

ParaPathways will be available to South Carolina candidates beginning September 1, 2025.

The current ParaPro assessment will remain an option for beginning paraeducators through August 31, 2026, and will then be discontinued. Although ParaPro will remain available for another year, districts may want to consider opportunities being offered by ETS during the introduction to ParaPathways. Between September 1 and December 31, 2025, candidates may take ParaPathways at no cost and will receive a free interactive practice test in preparation for the assessment. Districts also have the option to convert previously purchased session keys for ParaPro and use them for ParaPathways after the no-cost option expires December 31. For additional information on ParaPathways, please review this [informational flyer](#) and reach out to your current ParaPro contact for assistance.

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) does not issue educator certificates to paraeducators but does monitor district compliance with these federal requirements. Districts are responsible for maintaining documentation of the qualifications of the paraeducators working in Title I schools or targeted assistance programs.