

## **TEACHER ASSISTANTS**

It is the policy of the Faith School District Board of Education that teacher assistants will be employed for the school term only. Employment will be offered if:

1. Funds are available.
2. The educational need exists in a particular program.
3. The applicant possesses the required level of requisite skills as prescribed in the appropriate State Department of Education regulation. The exception is a teacher's assistant or a volunteer will be used for each class of kindergarten through second grade which has more than 20 students and in which twenty percent of the students are eligible to participate in the National Child Nutrition Act.

Teacher assistants are paraprofessionals within the school district. All paraprofessionals must have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent. Paraprofessionals hired to work with identified Title I students must have completed at least two years of study at an institution of higher education; obtained at least an associate's degree; or met a rigorous standard of quality and can demonstrate through a formal state or local academic assessment the knowledge of and ability to assist in the instruction of reading, writing or mathematics or the instruction of readiness of these subjects. The district is a school-wide Title I district and will not hire Title I paraprofessionals who do not meet these standards.

Exception to these requirements may be made with regard to paraprofessionals who act as translators or who coordinate parent involvement activities.

The superintendent and/or principal shall develop an appropriate in-service training program for teacher assistants.

Teacher assistants are employed so that the professional teachers may direct their energies to the students' education. The basic objectives for the use of teacher assistants are:

1. To make it possible for teachers to use more variety in structuring classroom activities which will result in more meaningful education for children and youth.
2. To enable the teacher to do more creative teaching and to use a greater variety of instructional media.
3. To enable the teacher to develop effective programs focusing upon the individual needs of each student.

4. To provide increased time for individualizing instruction, evaluating learning situations, student counseling and guidance for other instructional activities that will improve educational opportunities for boys and girls.
5. To relieve teachers of the numerous semi- and non-professional tasks which have become cumulative and which have come to consume a disproportionate amount of the teachers' time and energies.

The principal and supervising teacher are jointly responsible for making final decisions related to the duties and responsibility to be assigned to an assistant. All disciplinary actions taken by the assistant must be within the established guidelines of the Faith School Discipline Code.

Teacher assistants will only be used to perform or assist a classroom teacher to perform the following duties:

1. Hall room duty
2. Bus duty
3. Playground duty
4. Lunchroom duty
5. Extracurricular activities involving school functions
6. Other non-instructional duties as the superintendent or principal may prescribe.

The duties of teacher assistants may be further restricted or regulated by program requirements of the funding plan under which they are employed:

1. Title I
2. Title IV
3. Early Childhood Intervention.
4. Special Education

Adoption: October 10, 2006

REFERENCE: P.L. 107-110, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001