

DBA

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

It is the policy of the Holdenville Board of Education that teacher assistants will be employed for the school term only. Employment will be offered if the funds are available, the educational need exists in a particular program, and the applicant possesses the required level of requisite skills as prescribed by in the appropriate State Department of Education regulation.

Teacher assistants are paraprofessionals within the school district. All paraprofessionals must have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent. Paraprofessionals must have completed at least two years of study at an institution of higher learning; 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 instruction of readiness of these subjects.

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

The superintendent and/or staff development committees 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

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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 teacher's time and energies.

The principal and supervising teacher are jointly responsible for making final decisions related to the duties and responsibilities to be assigned to an assistant. Assistants are not to discipline children. Classroom discipline shall be left to the certified teacher or building principal.

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

- 1.** Hall duty
- 2.** Bus duty
- 3.** Playground duty
- 4.** Lunchroom duty
- 5.** Extracurricular activities involving school functions
- 6.** Substitute teach
- 7.** Other duties as prescribed by the Superintendent

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

REFERENCE: 70 O.S. 6-27, 18-113.1 et seq.

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