



A Union of Professionals

## Update on deadline for paraprofessionals to meet NCLB's qualification requirements

In May 2006, the AFT sent a [letter](#) to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) requesting that ED maintain its stated policy of aligning NCLB's teacher and paraprofessional requirements by allowing the deadline for paraprofessionals to meet qualification requirements to be extended to the end of the 2006-07 school year just as the deadline for teachers to meet highly qualified requirements has been extended.

We have not yet received an official response to our letter, but ED has publicly indicated that it does not plan to extend the deadline by which paraprofessionals have to meet qualification requirements past the end of the 2005-06 school year. An ED staffer, did however, provide the following information via e-mail, which could be useful in working with school districts to protect the employment of hardworking paraprofessionals:

*"LEAs do not necessarily need to terminate the employment of a paraprofessional not meeting the Title I qualification requirements at the end of the 2005-06 school year. At the LEA's discretion, such paraprofessionals may be reassigned to non-Title I schools or to duties to which the qualification requirements do not apply, such as solely conducting parental involvement activities or serving as a translator."*

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