

February 19, 2004

04-101

AUTHORITY TO APPLY TO THE STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING
DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS: ASSOCIATE
OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND ONE-YEAR CERTIFICATE
OF COMPLETION - PARAEDUCATOR

PREPARED BY: Amy Alday-Murray, Curriculum Manager

APPROVED BY: Guy Sievert, Vice President, Academic and Student
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REPORT: This program provides students with the option to pursue a one-year certificate of completion or an AAS degree in the field of education as a Paraeducator. The proposed program will add a new degree and update the current Instructional Assistant certificate. The impetus for the program changes are a result of the No Child Left Behind Act, passed in 2001, which requires that by 2006, instructional assistants must have completed two years of college, earned an associates degree, or demonstrated professional competency through examination. Additionally, PCC recently received the REAP (Raising the Educational Achievement of Paraprofessionals) grant through which a partnership has been established with four Washington County K-12 districts in order to support instructional assistants serving English language learners. Both the AAS and the certificate have a core of 42 credits, after which students may choose an area of focus in either special education or in supporting children who are learning English as a second language.

The target student population includes instructional assistants currently employed in school districts who will have to meet the new requirements to remain employed, students who are new to the field, and those who are beginning a career pathway to a baccalaureate degree.

RECOMMENDATION: That the college be authorized to submit an application to the State Board of Education for an AAS and a one-year certificate of completion in Paraeducator.