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# SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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January 19, 2017

( ) Action Required  
Due Date: February 21, 2017  
(X) Informational

## BULLETIN NO. 004-17 LEARNING AND TEACHING

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents  
School District Superintendents  
School District Business Managers  
School Building Principals  
School Building Paraeducators

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Grant Opportunity to Support Paraeducator Professional Development

CONTACT: Marissa Rathbone, Director of Operations, Learning and Teaching  
360-725-4968, [marissa.rathbone@k12.wa.us](mailto:marissa.rathbone@k12.wa.us)

The purpose of this bulletin is to alert school districts of a competitive grant opportunity to provide support for state-funded paraeducator professional development. The Legislature has provided one-time funding to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for the 2016–17 grants.

**OSPI will provide approximately \$900,000 in funds to school districts in competitive grants that will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis to districts up to the amount of funding available.** School districts may apply for funds through OSPI's [iGrants](#) system (Form Package 797). Applications must be completed no later than February 21. All funding must be spent on professional development opportunities provided to paraeducators between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

The types of offerings that a district may make available to paraeducators are:

- Professional development (face-to-face or online) related to paraeducators' work offered through a school district, educational service district (ESD), state, or professional organization.
- College courses related to paraeducator work, and/or leading to teaching certification.

Funding may be used to pay for the actual costs of professional development opportunities, including salary and benefits, registration fees, tuition costs, materials and supplies, and travel. Districts may apply for up to a specific funding level based on the size of its student population:

1 to 359 students:	up to \$5,000 (representing 1/3 of all districts)
360 to 2,415 students:	up to \$10,000 (representing 1/3 of all districts)
2,416 or more students:	up to \$20,000 (representing 1/3 of all districts)

Examples of Online Professional Development Resources:

Currently, Puget Sound ESD offers online professional development to paraeducators through [paraeducator.com](http://paraeducator.com). The Evergreen State College, in partnership with OSPI's Special Education State Needs Projects, offers [eLearning for educators](#) to help educators serving students with disabilities. In addition, OSPI has contracted with Education Northwest to develop twelve professional development modules related to the four Paraeducator Standards identified in the [K-12 Education Paraeducator Development Work Group 2016 Report](#). These online modules will be available in spring 2017.

If you have questions about this bulletin, please contact Marissa Rathbone, Director of Operations, Learning and Teaching at 360-725-4968 or [marissa.rathbone@k12.wa.us](mailto:marissa.rathbone@k12.wa.us). The agency TTY number is 360-664-3631. This bulletin is available at <http://www.k12.wa.us/BulletinsMemos/bulletins2017.aspx>.

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