

Para-to-Teacher Tuition Support Program

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
Florida Department of Education



Program Description and Application Process

The Para-to-Teacher Tuition Support Program provides financial assistance for paraprofessionals who are currently working in Florida's public schools, to earn a bachelor's degree in special education. The program will provide up to \$700 per course for tuition support through annual funding from the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services. Upon completion of the program the participant agrees to teach students with disabilities in a Florida public school for a minimum of two years for every academic year of tuition support received.

Admissions Criteria

In order to be accepted into the Para-to-Teacher Support Program, the applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

- Currently employed as a paraprofessional in a Florida public school
- Earned at least an Associate of Arts degree with an overall 2.5 GPA
- Be admitted to a state approved university or college
- Passed all portions of the General Knowledge Test

Applicants must submit a complete application, which includes all original documents to the state Para-to-Teacher Project Director. Email applications will be held until original documentation arrives.

Application Process

Applicants must submit all of the following items:

- Para-to-Teacher Tuition Support Program Application form
- Typed rationale explaining why you want to become an Exceptional Student Education teacher
- Letter of recommendation from your school district administrator
- School District Agreement signed by your administrator
- Unofficial copy of transcript from community college, college, or university awarding AA degree or higher
- Signed copy of the Service Obligation Agreement

Application items should be sent to: **Dr. Keri Fogle, Co-Project Director**
University of West Florida
11000 University Parkway
Bldg. 85/189
Pensacola, FL 32514
Fax 850-474-3460
kerifogle@uwf.edu

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Application Form

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____

Phone Number: _____ Race: _____ Gender: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

University where currently enrolling or admitted: _____

Current Student ID Number: _____

College that awarded AA degree: _____ Date Awarded: _____ GPA: _____

Current Job Assignment: _____ Length of Time in Current Position: _____

District Name: _____ School Name: _____

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Check all of the items below that apply and provide requested information.

- I am currently working on my bachelor's degree in special education but receiving no tuition support.
Name of university and number of courses completed: _____

- I am not currently working on my bachelor's degree in special education.

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I have read and understand the program description and requirements for the Para-to-Teacher Tuition Support Program. The information provided above is correct and accurate. I have attached a typed one-page rationale explaining why I want to become an Exceptional Student Education teacher.

Signature of Applicant

Date

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School District Agreement

The Para-to-Teacher Tuition Support Program provides financial assistance for paraprofessionals who are currently working in Florida's public schools, to earn a bachelor's degree in special education. The program will provide up to \$700 per course for tuition support through annual funding from the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services. Upon completion of the program, the participant agrees to teach students with disabilities in a Florida public school for a minimum of two years for every academic year of tuition support received.

As a part of this program, each applicant is asked to obtain an official agreement from the school district where they are currently employed as a paraprofessional. Please assist the applicant with (1) providing a letter of recommendation and (2) completion of the form below.

If you have questions regarding this request please contact Dr. Keri Fogle, Project Co-Director, at 850-474-3460 or via email at kerifogle@uwf.edu. For additional information on the Para-to-Teacher Tuition Support Program visit: <http://fcim-pdsp.fcim.org/paraTuition/>.

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_____ agrees to provide _____
Name of School District Name of Applicant

who is employed by our district as a _____ the following:
Job Title

- Opportunities for implementation of class activities into practice at the school site
- Flexibility with job assignments in order to participate in field experiences
- An opportunity for completion of internship

**Field experiences and internships may not occur at current work site due to availability of certified supervising teachers and school district requirements

Signature of Principal Date

OR

Exceptional Student Education Director (or designee) Date