



Submitted by: Dr. Mary Gricus, Assistant Superintendent

On June 1, 2013, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will implement a new licensing system for school paraprofessionals. Paraprofessionals are staff members who provide a variety of instructional and/or physical support for students under the supervision of certified teachers. The current credential for a paraprofessional is called "NCLB-Approved Paraprofessional Approval." There is currently no fee attached to the application for this credential.

Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, qualified applicants will need to pay a \$75 fee to ISBE to apply for the new paraprofessional license. License holders will also be required to register the new license by paying a fee of \$50 for every 5-year registration period.

If you are interested in obtaining the credential needed to work as a paraprofessional or believe that you may want to work as a paraprofessional in any Illinois school in the future, you can save the \$75 application fee by applying for the current NCLB-Approved Paraprofessional credential before May 31, 2013. The current credential will automatically be exchanged for the new license on June 1, 2013. While you will still need to pay the \$50.00 registration fee when you exchange the current credential for the new license on June 1<sup>st</sup>, you can save the \$75 application fee by applying before May 31<sup>st</sup>. Please note that only **NCLB-Approved Paraprofessionals** (#3 on state form 73-95, the application for the current credential) will be eligible to exchange their current credential for the new license.

Please visit the ISBE website for details about the requirements for the current NCLB-Approved Paraprofessional Approval: [http://www.isbe.net/certification/pdf/73-95\\_paraprofessional.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/certification/pdf/73-95_paraprofessional.pdf).

The South Cook Intermediate Service Center can also provide information about the application requirements for the NCLB-Approved Paraprofessional Approval: 708-754-6600.