



## **COMMISSIONER SETS CUT SCORE FOR PARAPRO TEST**

Instructional paraprofessionals in Minnesota who must meet the definition of “highly qualified” by the January, 2006 deadline have a number of options from which to choose. One of those options became clearer on December 1, 2003, as Commissioner Yecke selected a cut score for a state approved test.

That state approved test is ParaPro, published by the Educational Testing Service. This test measures a candidate’s proficiency in math, reading and writing, *and* the ability to assist the instruction of reading, writing and math. The cut score selected, 460, is the product of a validation study conducted in September by twenty Minnesota paraprofessionals and Title I teachers, plus discussions with the Minnesota Paraprofessional Consortium. The 460 score puts Minnesota one point above the national median.

“I’m glad to have this option available to districts, who are already hiring paraprofessionals who meet the NCLB requirements,” said Barbara Jo Stahl, Minnesota Department of Education. “We now have provided multiple options for paraprofessionals to meet these new requirements. Some paraprofessionals are choosing to go back to college, but many others are participating in the staff development involved in building a portfolio using Para eLink. The ParaPro test adds another approach that is available for district’s to use.”

### **How a district can order the ParaPro test to use on site:**

<http://www.ets.org/parapro/ippform.html>

### **Where a district or individual can go to take the ParaPro test:**

Regional testing centers are being set up at:

Bemidji State University

Bloomington, Normandale Community College

Brainerd, Central Lakes College

Cambridge, Anoka Ramsey Community College

Duluth, University of Minnesota

Mankato, Minnesota State University

Minneapolis, Minneapolis Community and Tech College

Minneapolis, University of Minnesota

Moorhead, Minnesota State University  
Rochester, Rochester Community and Tech College  
St. Cloud, St. Cloud State University  
Virginia, Mesabi Range Community and Tech College  
Winona, Winona State University  
(others will be added)  
(candidates should check with the testing center for first  
available dates)

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