

THE POLICY

PAGES *Responses to Questions as Received by Part H*

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Q: Please provide clarification concerning Part H personnel standards in Virginia. Specifically, do personnel standards apply for programs when no Part H funds will be used in funding the position in question and, in which the position is that of a Program Administrator, who will have responsibility for administrative tasks, developmental assessments, development of IFSPs, and direct service provision.

A: Federal regulations (34CFR 303.361) require states to determine which disciplines will be providing early intervention services and to set standards for each discipline as follows:

(1) "Appropriate professional requirements" in the State means entry level requirements that; (a) Are based on the highest requirement in the State applicable to the profession or discipline in which a person provides early intervention services and (b) Establish suitable qualifications for personnel providing early intervention services under Part H to eligible children and their families who are served by State, local and private agencies.

(2) "Highest requirement in the State applicable to a specific profession or discipline" means the highest entry-level academic degree needed for any State approved or recognized certification, licensing, registration, or other comparable requirement that apply to that profession or discipline.

(3) "Profession or discipline" means a specific occupational category that; (a) Provides early intervention services to eligible children under Part H and their families, (b) Has been established or designated by the State and, (c) Has a required scope of responsibilities and degree of supervision.

(4) "State approved or recognized certification, licensing, registration or other comparable requirements" means that requirements that a State legislature has enacted or has authorized a State agency to promulgate through rule to establish entry-level standards for employment in a specific profession or discipline in that State.

The Personnel Standards in Component Nine of Virginia's policies and procedures for Part H are in accordance with these federal regulations.

When individuals work with children who are Part H eligible and their families, these individuals need to meet Virginia's Part H personnel standards regardless of how the position is funded. The personnel standards apply to all personnel providing Part H services.

When program administrators will be providing both evaluation/assessment and direct services, he or she will need to meet one of the highest standards for Part H personnel. Depending upon the particular combination of skills sought in terms of evaluation/assessment and direct services, this individual might come from a variety of disciplines listed in Virginia's personnel standards.

For further information, please reference Virginia's current personnel standards.