

- L. **Covering Classes:** The Board will comply with all provisions of Florida Statutes, Section 1012.37 which states, "A district school board may appoint education paraprofessionals to assist members of the instructional staff in carrying out their duties and responsibilities. An educational paraprofessional shall not be required to hold a teaching certificate. An education paraprofessional, while rendering services under the supervision of a certified teacher, shall be accorded the same protection of laws as that accorded the certified teacher. Paid education paraprofessionals employed by a district school board shall be entitled to the same rights as those accorded non-instructional employees of the district school board." The parties agree that the collective bargaining agreement shall be consistent with any future changes in the statute.

An education paraprofessional shall not be utilized for in-classroom teaching or supervisory responsibilities over a classroom of students except in those most extreme circumstances. In the event that an emergency arises that requires an education paraprofessional to cover a class for more than a few minutes, the principal must provide a memorandum to the Office of School Performance & Accountability, after the fact, which justifies the classroom coverage. The memorandum must also include the total time period that the education paraprofessional was in the classroom without a teacher, the name of the education paraprofessional, and the regularly assigned teacher.