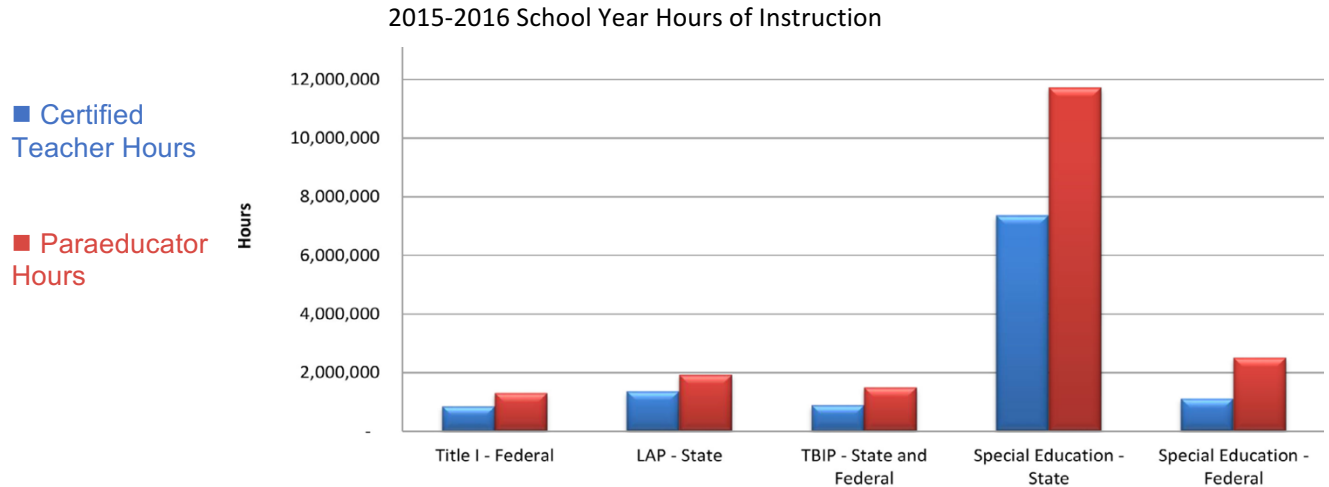




## Washington’s Opportunity Gap Students Need Qualified and Trained Educators

Paraeducators provide over **62 percent of instructional time** to Washington’s opportunity gap students, including students with disabilities. That number is growing.



School districts increasingly rely on our state’s 25,000+ paraeducators to instruct kids who are struggling, who are poor, bilingual, or have disabilities. Last year, school districts eliminated 200,000 hours of teacher instructional time and added over 930,000 hours of paraeducator instructional time.

- **Yet paraeducators receive virtually no training.** In the 2015-2016 school year, paraeducators received **0.05 percent** of statewide instructional professional development hours.
- **There are no state standards for paraeducators.** There are no educational qualifications and no licensure requirements.

### What is the Solution?

An expert panel created by the legislature recommended that we enact standards, training, and a career ladder for paraeducators.

Now, we need to move forward now to make sure that the legislature supports paraeducator standards and training. With legislative support, paraeducators will have greater success and result in improved outcomes with opportunity gap students.

<b>SUPPORT SB 5070</b>	<b>Support Professional Standards, a Training Program and a Career Ladder for Paraeducators.</b>
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