



Office of Professional Preparation Services



# Facts On Educator Certification

2012

## THE STATE OFFICE

Michigan law requires that a person employed in an elementary or secondary school with instructional responsibilities shall hold a certificate, permit or occupational authorization valid for the positions to which they are assigned. The Office of Professional Preparation Services (OPPS) and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) foster the educational achievement of all Michigan youth and adults, Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, by ensuring that all professional school personnel complete quality preparation and professional development programs, which meet standards established by the Michigan Legislature and the State Board of Education. General information on teacher certification can be found on the MDE podcast:

<http://www.mistreamnet.com/videtail.php?who=mde111809n01>

(Part 1: Certification Update Information)



### TYPES OF CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

**Michigan currently issues the following certificates:**

- Provisional Certificate
- Two-Year Extended Provisional Certificate
- Professional Education Certificate
- Interim Occupational Certificate
- Occupational Education Certificate
- Preliminary School Psychologist Certificate
- School Psychologist Certificate Temporary Teacher Employment
- Interim Teaching Certificate
- School Guidance Counselor License
- Temporary School Counselor Authorization
- Preliminary School Counselor Authorization
- Administrator Certificate

Michigan no longer issues the following certificates; however, they are still valid for those who hold them:

- 18-Hour and 30-Hour Continuing Certificate
- Permanent Certificate
- Full Vocational Authorization

### CURRENT\* VALIDITY LEVELS (Teaching Certificates)

- **Elementary:** An elementary certificate issued after September 1, 1988, is valid for teaching all subjects grades K-5, all subjects grades K-8 in a self-contained classroom, and subject area endorsements, as listed on the certificate, in grades 6-8.

- **Secondary:** A secondary certificate issued after September 1, 1988, is valid for teaching subject area endorsements, as listed on the certificate, in grades 6-12.

\* Prior to 1988, validity levels included "K-8 All Subjects" and "7-8 All Subjects" designations. These are still valid designations for individuals who hold these certificates.



## MICHIGAN CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

### **Provisional Certificate**

*Michigan's initial teaching license/credential.*

- The initial teaching certificate is issued in Michigan upon successful completion of a state approved teacher preparation program and passage of the appropriate Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) exams.
- Valid for up to 6 years.
- The following link provides information on Michigan approved teacher preparation programs: <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/proprep/>
- Programs completed through universities outside of Michigan must be approved for the certification of teachers by another state. Contact that state's education department for information. Upon completion of the out-of-state program, candidates must apply for Michigan teacher certification, and their credentials must be evaluated by OPPS.
- Alternate routes to certification completed in another state will require the completion of three years of teaching experience within the validity of the out-of-state regular standard teaching certificate.

### **Provisional Temporary Teacher Employment Authorization**

#### **Requirements:**

Only issued to candidates who:

- hold a valid, acceptable teaching certificate from another state;
- have never held a Michigan teaching certificate;
- have applied for initial Provisional certification; *and*
- meet all the requirements for the Provisional Certificate, except for passing the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC).

This authorization is not applied for, but issued upon evaluation for initial certification. The authorization is valid for only one-year from the date of issue and is non-renewable. The Temporary Teacher Employment Authorization (T2EA) allows out-of-state candidates one year to meet Michigan testing requirements. The MTTC is the only acceptable examination. **Once a T2EA has been issued the candidate *must* complete testing requirements in order to be issued any Michigan teaching certificate.**

## **Provisional Certificate Renewal (until September 1, 2013)**

*Each renewal is valid for up to 3 years.*

- **First** renewal requires completion of 9 semester hours in a planned course of study since the issuance of the Provisional Certificate or completion of an approved master's or higher degree at any time. (State Board-Continuing Education Units [SB-CEUs] or State Continuing Education Clock Hours [SCECHs] or District Provided Professional Development [DPPDs] cannot be used in lieu of semester hour credits for Provisional renewal *at this time.*);
- **Second** renewal requires completion of 18 semester hours (includes the 9 semester credits needed for the first renewal) in a planned course of study\* since the issuance of the Provisional Certificate or completion of an approved master's or higher degree at any time;
- An additional three-year renewal requires sponsorship by the local school district or private school, completion of all academic requirements for the Professional Education Certificate, and approval of the MDE;
- An individual who holds an expired Provisional, Temporary Vocational Authorization, or Interim Occupational Certificate, and who has not met the credit requirements for a first or second renewal may qualify for a 3-year renewal of the certificate if he/she:
  - holds a valid certificate from another state; and
  - has taught in that state within the grade level and subject area endorsement or endorsements to the validity of the certificate for at least 1 year in the preceding 5-year period.

*\* Credit completed outside the State of Michigan must be in an approved Master's degree program or in an endorsement program (minimum 20 semester credit hours to obtain endorsement) at a state approved teacher preparation institution.*

## **Two-Year Extended Provisional Certificate (until September 1, 2013)**

Individuals with expired Provisional Certificates who do not meet the requirements for a Provisional renewal may be eligible for a Two-Year Extended Provisional Certificate if the following conditions are met:

- The individual's initial Provisional Certificate expired less than ten years ago;
- The individual has at least one year of satisfactory teaching experience within the validity of his/her teaching certificate;
- The individual is currently enrolled in a planned program at an approved college/university;
- A Michigan public or private school is employing and sponsoring the individual for the Two-Year Extended Provisional Certificate.
  - The sponsoring school agrees to monitor the teacher's progress towards the completion of the Professional Education Certificate requirements.

*\* Enrollment must be verified by the approved college/university. To be enrolled, the individual must be registered for at least one class during the current semester/trimester or the upcoming semester/trimester AND have paid enrollment fees.*

The Two-Year Extended Provisional Certificate is valid for two calendar years and is nonrenewable. **Individuals who fail to complete all requirements for the Professional Education Certificate during the two-year validity period of the Two-Year Extended Provisional Certificate will not be granted additional renewals or extensions of their Provisional Certificates.**

### **Professional Education Certificate (until September 1, 2013)**

*Michigan's advanced teaching license/credential.*

#### **Requirements:**

- Completion of 18 semester hours\* in a planned course of study after the issuance of the Provisional Certificate or completion of an approved master's or higher degree at any time, and 3 years of successful teaching experience within the validity and grade level of the Provisional Certificate. (State Board-Continuing Education Units [SB-CEUs] or State Continuing Education Clock Hours [SCECHs] or District Provided Professional Development [DPPDs] cannot be used in lieu of semester hour credits for Provisional renewal *at this time.*);
- Teaching experience acquired in a licensed, private, "Child Care Center" may apply towards the experience requirements for an elementary Professional Education Certificate. The Michigan institution which plans a person's 18-semester hour planned program shall determine that the experience is under appropriate supervision and is successful for in-state candidates based on the report of the employing district(s);
- Valid for up to 5 years;
- Teachers who achieve National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Certification are eligible for the Professional Education Certificate with the same validity year as the NBPTS Certificate.

#### **Additional Requirements**

##### ***In-state:***

- Must also meet the basic reading requirements (6 semester hours of teaching of reading or reading methods for elementary and 3 semester hours for secondary); AND
- Beginning July 1, 2009, all teachers *advancing* to the Professional Education Certificate must have completed 3 semester credits of reading diagnostics and remediation, which includes a field experience, in accordance with Michigan Revised School Code MCL 380.1531(4)\*\*; The following link provides a list of approved Michigan courses that meet this requirement under the Specialty Programs heading at the bottom of the page:  
<http://www.michigan.gov/teachercert>

##### ***Out-of-state (Initial Michigan Certification):***

- Must also meet the basic reading requirements (6 semester hours of teaching of reading or reading methods for elementary and 3 semester hours for secondary);
- Candidates from other states who hold a regular, valid teaching certificate from another state and meet all of the requirements of the Professional Education Certificate at the time of application are not required to take the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification for initial Michigan certification;

- \* *Credit completed outside the State of Michigan must be in an approved Master's degree program or in an endorsement program (minimum 20 semester credit hours to obtain endorsement) at a state approved teacher preparation institution.*
- \*\* *Applicants who complete the reading diagnostics course **out-of-state** must have the Reading Diagnostics Course Certification form completed and signed by the out-of-state university.*

## **Professional Temporary Teacher Employment Authorization**

### **Requirements:**

Only issued to out-of-state candidates who:

- hold a valid, acceptable certificate from another;
- have never held a Michigan teaching certificate; and
- meet all the requirements for the Michigan Professional Education Certificate, except for the reading methods coursework.

This authorization is not applied for but issued upon evaluation for initial certification. The authorization is valid for only one-year from the date of issue and is non-renewable. The Professional Temporary Teacher Employment Authorization (T2EA) allows out-of-state candidates one year to meet Michigan's basic reading requirements. **Once the T2EA has been issued the candidate must complete the reading requirements within the year in order to be issued a Michigan Professional Education Certificate.** If the reading requirement is not met within the year, the candidate must be evaluated for the Provisional Certificate and pass the appropriate MTTC exams.

## **Professional/Occupational Education Certificate Renewal (as of 5/18/12)** (Renewal is valid for up to 5 years)

### **Requires ONE of the following:**

- Completion of 6 semester hours in a planned course of study at any four-year or community college listed in the *Directory of Michigan Institutions of Higher Education*. \*
- 180 State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs).
- 150 annual District Provided Professional Development (DPPD) hours in accordance with Michigan School Code Section 380.1527. The form is available in the Michigan Online Educator Certification System ([www.michigan.gov/moecs](http://www.michigan.gov/moecs)).
- Combination of the three.

Semester credits, SCECHs or DPPD must have been completed within the five-year period preceding the date of application and after the date of issuance of the previous certificate.

- \* Credits completed at approved out-of-state four-year teacher preparation institutions are also acceptable.



## **Additional Endorsements**

In order to add an endorsement to an existing Michigan Provisional or Professional Education Certificate, the candidate must complete an approved endorsement program of at least 20 semester hours through a teacher preparation college or university and pass the appropriate content area exam from the MTTC. **Testing alone does not certify a teacher.** The following is the link to Michigan approved programs: <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/proprep/Index.asp>

Endorsement programs completed through a teacher preparation college or university outside Michigan must be evaluated by OPPS staff as an additional endorsement request.

## **Interim Teaching Certificate**

An individual holding this certificate may be employed to teach in a public school in the same manner as a person holding a Michigan teaching certificate in accordance with Michigan Revised School Code MCL 380.1531. An individual may qualify for this certificate under the following conditions:

- Must be a participant in a state approved alternate route teaching program;
- Must hold a bachelor's, master's, doctorate, or professional degree from a regionally accredited college or university, with a GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent);
- Passage of the MTTC Basic Skills and appropriate subject area exam(s) prior to acceptance or admission to an alternate route program.

While working under the Interim Certificate the individual must:

- Submit to and pass a criminal history check, including Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprinting in accordance with Michigan School Safety law, prior to employment by a local district or school;
- Receive intensive observation and coaching;
- Complete 3 years of satisfactory teaching experience under the Interim Certificate in order to be recommended for a Michigan Provisional Certificate or Professional Education Certificate (which requires completion of 3 semester credit hours of diagnostic reading and 18 semester credit hours in a planned program or a master's degree).

**How to Apply:** Individuals must be recommended by the approved alternate route provider.

## **School Guidance Counselor License**

*A School Guidance Counselor License shall be valid for up to 5 years.*

### ***Initial in-state applicant***

*(program completed through a Michigan university)*

#### **Requirements:**

- Completion of not less than 30 graduate level semester hours in an approved school counseling program, including an internship;

- Completion of not less than a 600 clock hour internship based on an approved school counselor program with school-aged pupils under the supervision of a credentialed school counselor or a school counselor educator. At least 300 of the 600 clock hour shall be in a school setting; and
- Passage of the MTTC.

***Initial out-of-state applicant***

*(program completed through a state other than Michigan)*

**Requirements:**

- At least 5 years of successful experience serving in the role of a school counselor in another state within the immediate preceding 7 years and holds a Bachelors degree; AND
- Passage of the MTTC; AND
- Documentation from another state as to authorization to work as a school counselor;

**OR**

- Completed all requirements of an approved school counselor education program from an out-of-state institution and earned an advanced degree in guidance counseling or its equivalency, AND
- Passage of the MTTC.

**School Guidance Counselor License Renewal**

*(Renewal is valid for up to 5 years)*

**Requires ONE of the following:**

- Completion of 6 semester hours at any four-year or community college listed in the *Directory of Michigan Institutions of Higher Education*. \*
- 180 State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs).
- Combination of the two.

Semester credits or SCECHs (formerly SB-CEUs) must have been completed within the five-year period preceding the date of application and after the date of issuance of the previous certificate.

\* Credits completed at approved out-of-state four-year teacher preparation institutions are also acceptable.

**Preliminary Employment Authorization for School Guidance Counselor**

Available to a candidate of a Michigan teacher preparation institution who has completed 30 semester hours of course work in an approved school guidance counseling program and has passed the Guidance Counselor subject area exam on the MTTC. This authorization is valid for up to three years and is nonrenewable. During the three-year validity period, a person is expected to complete the remainder of any outstanding courses/practicum in order to be recommended of the school counselor endorsement or School Guidance Counselor License.



## **Temporary School Counselor Authorization**

Issued to out-of-state candidates who meet either the educational or experience requirement, but have yet to take and pass the required examination. This authorization is valid for one year only and is nonrenewable. This authorization is not applied for, but issued upon evaluation for initial license as a school counselor. The Temporary School Counselor Authorization allows out-of-state candidates one year to meet Michigan testing requirements.

## **Administrator Certification**

Certification requires completion of master's or higher degree from an approved program in educational leadership or administration offered by an institute of higher education (IHE). There are two basic endorsements available on the initial certificate (i.e., Elementary/Secondary Administrator K-12 [Building] or Central Office [district]).

A superintendent, principal, assistant principal or other person whose primary responsibility is administering instructional programs employed as a school administrator after January 4, 2010, must hold a valid Administrator Certificate in accordance with SB 981.

A school administrator who was employed as a school administrator on or before January 4, 2010 does not need to hold the Administrator Certificate for their current position, but must meet the professional development requirements as described in the Administrative certificate renewal requirements below.

A non-certified school administrator may be employed by a school district if enrolled in a program leading to certification as a school administrator not later than 6 months after date of employment. The school administrator has 3 years to meet the certification requirements.

*\* Enrollment must be verified by the approved college/university. To be enrolled, the individual must be registered for at least one class during the current semester/trimester or the upcoming semester/trimester AND have paid enrollment fees.*

## **Administrator Certificate Renewal**

*(Renewal is valid for up to 5 years)*

### **Requires ONE of the following:**

- Completion of 6 semester hours at any four-year or community college listed in the *Directory of Michigan Institutions of Higher Education*. \*
- 180 State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs)
- Combination of the two.

Semester credits or SCECHs (formerly SB-CEUs) must have been completed within the five-year period preceding the date of application and after the date of issuance of the previous certificate.

\* Credits completed at approved out-of-state four-year teacher preparation institutions are also acceptable.

## **School Psychologist Certificate**

A person who is employed as a school psychologist by a local or intermediate school district is required to hold a valid Michigan School Psychologist Certificate or a Preliminary School Psychologist Certificate.

A Preliminary School Psychologist Certificate is the initial certificate issued upon completion of an approved school psychologist preparation program. The candidate must have completed a minimum of a 45 graduate semester hours in an approved school psychologist program, and completed a supervised internship of not less than 600 hours under the supervision of a certified school psychologist. In order to advance to the School Psychologist Certificate the candidate must complete at least an additional 15 semester credits in an approved program. The Preliminary School Psychologist Certificate is valid for 3 years and may be renewed once upon completion of at least 6 additional semester credit hours.

A School Psychologist Certificate is the advanced level Michigan certificate and is valid for up to 5 years. To qualify for the School Psychologist Certificate the candidate must complete at least 15 additional semester credit hours in an approved school psychology program since his/her Preliminary School Psychologist Certificate was issued, or possess a specialist's or equivalent degree in school psychology earned at any time from an approved institution. In addition, the candidate must have completed one year of satisfactory work experience as a school psychologist under the supervision of a fully certified school psychologist since his/her Preliminary School Psychologist Certificate was issued. The School Psychologist Certificate must be renewed by meeting the continuing education requirements as described in the renewal policy for the Professional Education Certificate.

## **School Psychologist License Renewal**

*(Renewal is valid for up to 5 years)*

### **Requires ONE of the following:**

- Completion of 6 semester hours at any four-year or community college listed in the *Directory of Michigan Institutions of Higher Education*. \*
- 180 State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs)
- Combination of the two.

Semester credits or SCECHs (formerly SB-CEUs) must have been completed within the five-year period preceding the date of application and after the date of issuance of the previous certificate.

\* Credits completed at approved out-of-state four-year teacher preparation institutions are also acceptable.

## **Occupational Certificates**

Interim Occupational Certificates and Occupational Education Certificates (advanced license) are valid for teaching in a state reimbursed and approved occupational education classroom in the area specified on the certificate.

## **Interim Occupational Certificate**

*(Initial License)* Interim Occupational Certificate; formerly called Temporary Vocational Authorization.

### **Requirements:**

An applicant may be recommended by the occupational teacher preparation institution if he/she has met the following requirements:

- Possesses a baccalaureate degree;
- Has a major or minor in the field of specialization in which occupational certification is being requested;
- Has a minimum of 2 years (4,000 hours) of experience in the occupational area concerned or has completed a planned program of directed supervised occupational experience approved the superintendent of public instruction. The occupational experience shall be characterized as relevant and recent;
- Has passed both the MTTC Basic Skills exam and appropriate subject area exam or exams available at the time of application;
- Has successfully completed a minimum of 6 semester credit hours of professional or occupational education credit;
- The Interim Occupational Certificate is valid for teaching in those courses in which instruction is limited to the occupation specified on the certificate in approved occupational programs. Interim Occupational Certificates are valid for up to six years.

## **Occupational Education Certificate**

*(Advanced License)*

**Requirements:** Three years of successful teaching experience within the validity of the Temporary Vocational Authorization or Interim Occupational Certificate; completion of 9 additional semester hours of professional occupational education credit since the issuance of the Interim Occupational Certificate at an approved occupational institution, or an approved master's or higher degree earned at any time.

The Occupational Education Certificate has the same validity and renewal conditions as the Professional Education Certificate.

## ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES EFFECTIVE AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2013

### **Provisional Certificate Renewal (after September 1, 2013)**

*Each renewal is valid for up to 3 years.*

- **First** renewal requires completion of ONE Of THE FOLLOWING:
  - 6 semester hours in a planned course of study\* since the issuance of the Provisional certificate at an approved educator preparation institution; OR
  - 180 State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs) appropriate to the grade level and content endorsement(s) of the certificate held since the issuance of the Provisional certificate; OR
  - Combination of semester credit hours and SCECHs (30 SCECHs equate to 1 semester credit hour) since the issuance of the Provisional certificate; OR
  - Completion of an approved master's or higher degree in areas appropriate to K-12 teaching since the issuance of the Provisional certificate at an approved educator preparation institution.
- **Second** renewal requires completion of ONE Of THE FOLLOWING:
  - 6 semester hours in a planned course of study\* since the issuance of the FIRST Provisional Renewal at an approved educator preparation institution; OR
  - 180 State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs) appropriate to the grade level and content endorsement(s) of the certificate held since the issuance of the FIRST Provisional Renewal; OR
  - Combination of semester credit hours and SCECHs (30 SCECHs equate to 1 semester credit hour) since the issuance of the FIRST Provisional Renewal; OR
  - Completion of an approved master's or higher degree in areas appropriate to K-12 teaching since the issuance of the Provisional certificate at an approved educator preparation institution.
- **Third** renewal requires sponsorship by the local school district or private school, completion of all academic requirements for the Professional Education Certificate, and approval of the MDE. This renewal will not be issued to individuals who meet all the requirements for the Professional certificate.

An individual who holds an expired Provisional, Temporary Vocational Authorization, or Interim Occupational Certificate, and who has not met the credit requirements for a first or second renewal may qualify for a 3-year renewal of the certificate if he/she:

- holds a valid certificate from another state; and
- has taught in that state within the grade level and subject area endorsement or endorsements to the validity of the certificate for at least 1 year in the preceding 5-year period.

*\* Credit completed outside the State of Michigan must be in an approved Master's degree program or in an endorsement program (minimum 20 semester credit hours to obtain endorsement) at a state approved teacher preparation institution.*

## **Two-Year Extended Provisional Certificate (after September 1, 2013)**

Individuals with expired Provisional Certificates who do not meet the requirements for a Provisional renewal may be eligible for a Two-Year Extended Provisional Certificate if the following conditions are met:

- The individual's initial Provisional Certificate expired less than ten years ago;
- The individual has at least one year of satisfactory teaching experience within the validity of his/her teaching certificate;
- The individual is currently enrolled\* in a planned program at an approved college/university;
- A Michigan public or private school is employing and sponsoring the individual for the Two-Year Extended Provisional Certificate.
  - The sponsoring school agrees to monitor the teacher's progress towards the completion of the Professional Education Certificate requirements.

The Two-Year Extended Provisional Certificate is valid for two calendar years and is nonrenewable. **Individuals who fail to complete all requirements for the Professional Education Certificate during the two-year validity period of the Two-Year Extended Provisional Certificate will not be granted additional renewals or extensions of their Provisional Certificates.**

*\* Enrollment must be verified by the approved college/university. To be enrolled, the individual must be registered for at least one class during the current semester/trimester or the upcoming semester/trimester AND have paid enrollment fees.*

## **Professional Education Certificate (after September 1, 2013)**

*Michigan's advanced teaching license/credential. Valid for up to 5 years.*

### **Requirements:**

- 3 years of successful teaching experience\* since the issuance, and within the validity & grade level, of the Provisional Certificate;
- The appropriate reading credit as described in the "Additional Requirements" below;

And *ONE* of the following:

- 6 semester hours in a planned course of study\*\* since the issuance of the Provisional Certificate at an approved educator preparation institution.
- 180 State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs) appropriate to the grade level and content endorsement(s) of the certificate held since the issuance of the Provisional Certificate.
- 150 annual District Provided Professional Development (DPPD) hours in accordance with Michigan School Code Sections 380.1527. The form is available in the Michigan Online Educator Certification System ([www.michigan.gov/moecs](http://www.michigan.gov/moecs)).
- Combination of the three.

SCECHs (30 SCECHs equate to 1 semester credit hour), and/or DPPD hours (30 clock hours of DPPD equates to 1 semester credit hour or 30 SCECHs) since the issuance of the Provisional Certificate.

### **Additional Requirements**

#### ***In-state:***

- Must also meet the basic reading requirements (6 semester hours of teaching of reading or reading methods for elementary and 3 semester hours for secondary); AND
- Beginning July 1, 2009 all teachers *advancing* to the Professional Education Certificate must have completed 3 semester credits of reading diagnostics and remediation, which includes a field experience, in accordance with Michigan Revised School Code MCL 380.1531(4)\*\*; The following link provides a list of approved Michigan courses that meet this requirement under the Specialty Programs heading at the bottom of the page:  
<http://www.michigan.gov/teachercert>

#### ***Out-of-state (Initial Michigan Certification):***

- Must also meet the basic reading requirements (6 semester hours of teaching of reading or reading methods for elementary and 3 semester hours for secondary);
- Candidates from other states who hold a regular, valid teaching certificate from another state and meet all of the requirements of the Professional Education Certificate at the time of application are not required to take the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification for initial Michigan certification.

*\*Teaching experience acquired in a licensed, private, "Child Care Center" may apply towards the experience requirements for an elementary Professional Education Certificate. The Michigan institution which plans a person's 18-semester hour planned program shall determine that the experience is under appropriate supervision and is successful for in-state candidates based on the report of the employing district(s).*

*\*\* Credit completed outside the State of Michigan must be in an approved Master's degree program or in an endorsement program (minimum 20 semester credit hours to obtain endorsement) at a state approved teacher preparation institution.*

*\*\*\* Applicants who complete the reading diagnostics course **out-of-state**, must have the Reading Diagnostics Course Certification form completed and signed by the out-of-state university.*



## HOW TO APPLY FOR A MICHIGAN EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE

All Michigan educator certificates and renewals must be applied for through the Michigan Online Educator Certification System (MOECS). The following steps need to be taken to obtain INITIAL access to MOECS and apply for your certificate, renewal or additional endorsement:

1. Go to [www.michigan.gov/moeecs](http://www.michigan.gov/moeecs).
2. Click on "Click Here to go to the MOECS Login Page" Logo.
3. Click on the "Create new Login Name/Password" link (if you are NEW to the system).
4. Follow the instructions and provide the required information to create your login name and password.
5. **Print the confirmation page** that contains your login name, password, and Michigan Education Information Systems (MEIS) account number.
6. Click on the link to return to MOECS.
7. Log into MOECS using the login name and password that you created.
8. After logging in, select "Educator" from the dropdown list.
9. Click on "Continue."
10. Follow the instructions and provide the required information to self-register in MOECS.
11. Once you have successfully self-registered in MOECS, you will be sent an e-mail that contains a link to activate your account.
12. Click on that link and the MOECS login screen will appear.
13. Log into MOECS again, using the login name and password that you previously created.
14. Update and save your demographic information.
15. After you update and save your demographic information, the left navigation menus will appear on the screen.
16. Select "Apply for Educator Certificate or Renewal" from the left navigation menus.
17. Select the type of educator certificate that you are applying for or renewing from the dropdown list.\*
18. Follow the instructions and answer all the questions.



19. Once you have completed the application process, a summary of your application will appear on the screen.
20. Review the summary and make sure that all the information and answers that you provided are correct.
21. After you have determined that the information on the application is correct, click on "continue."
22. Read the advisory and check the boxes to verify that you have read and understood the advisory and that the information on the application is correct and true.
23. Enter your electronic signature and submit the application.
24. Once your application has been successfully submitted, you will receive a confirmation message.
25. If you completed your program or renewal credits through a college or university outside the State of Michigan, the confirmation message will list the documents that you need to submit to the Michigan Department of Education and provide an address where the documents must be sent. Evaluation of your credits or program for the purpose of Provisional certification, Provisional renewal or advancement to the Professional Certificate will not occur until payment is made.
26. If you completed your program or renewal credits through a Michigan college/university, that college/university will contact you if they need you to provide additional documentation.

**\*NOTE: If you are applying for a renewal of a Professional Education Certificate, Occupational Education Certificate, School Administrator Certificate, School Psychologist Certificate, or School Counselor license based on completion of:**

- **COLLEGE CREDITS –**

You will need to add the credits that you completed through the "View/Update my College Credits" left navigation menu before you apply for the renewal. Transcripts will be requested at a later date.

- **State Board Continuing Education Units (SB-CEUS) -  
(prior to JANUARY 1, 2010)**

You will need to add the credits that you completed through the "View/Update my SCECHs" left navigation menu before you apply for the renewal. Transcripts will be requested at a later date. (Note: SB-CEUs are now called State Continuing Education Clock Hours or SCECH)

- **DISTRICT PROVIDED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DPPD) - (for Professional Education Certificates only)**

You will need to add the credits that you completed through the "View/Update my Professional Dev. Data" left navigation menu before you apply for the renewal. You must then fax your signed *District Provided Professional Development Record for Certificate Renewal* forms (one per school year) to (517) 373-0542. The form is available in the Michigan Online Educator Certification System (MOECS) under the forms tab.

Applicants who completed their program or renewal credits at a college/university outside the State of Michigan will receive an e-mail with a link to pay the application evaluation fee once their application has been successfully sent to the MDE. After the application evaluation fee is paid and the required documents have been received by the MDE, the application will be evaluated to determine if the applicant meets requirements for Michigan certification or renewal. If the certificate/renewal is approved, it will be available for printing from your MOECS home page.

Applicants who completed their program or renewal credits through a Michigan college or university will be sent an e-mail that contains a link to pay the fee once the college/university approves the certificate or renewal. The certificate/renewal will be available for printing from your MOECS home page.

**Applicants only need to create a login name and password and self-register in MOECS the first time they use the system. Once an applicant has self-registered, he/she can log into the MOECS at any time to apply for a certificate, renewal, additional endorsement, or duplicate certificate, update demographic information, check the status of an application, etc.**

If you have any difficulty with the MOECS self-registration process or the application process, please contact the Office of Professional Preparation Services at [MOECSSupport@Michigan.gov](mailto:MOECSSupport@Michigan.gov) or (517) 373-3310.



### **Certificates/Approvals Issued to Schools & School Districts**

#### **Substitute Permit**

**Requirements:** Completion of 90 semester hours of satisfactory (minimum 2.0 grade point average) credit consolidated at one four-year regionally accredited college and university.

**How to Apply:** Applications for permits can only be completed and submitted to the OPPS by local and intermediate school districts, public school academies, and private schools. Individuals who meet the minimum

requirements and wish to substitute teach should contact the district/school where they are interested in substitute teaching.

**Validity:** The substitute permit is valid for teaching in day-to-day substitute teaching assignments during the school year for which the permit is approved. This permit is not valid for any regular or extended assignment. The substitute permit expires on August 31<sup>st</sup> of the given school year. The district/school may renew the permit each school year.

### **Other Permits: Emergency, Full Year, 1233b, and Expert in Residence**

Issued to schools or school districts where an emergency staffing issue exists and the school cannot find a certified individual for the assignment.

For more information about teacher permits, or for a copy of the brochure "Facts About Michigan Teacher Permits," visit the website at:  
[www.michigan.gov/teachercert](http://www.michigan.gov/teachercert).

### **Annual Authorization**

This authorization can be issued to a school district if an occupationally certificated teacher is unavailable for employment. The purpose of this authorization is to provide school districts with experienced individuals to instruct in an occupational area where fully certified occupational teachers are unavailable. This Annual Authorization is valid for persons who will be teaching occupationally approved and reimbursed courses in grades 9-12.

#### **Requirements:**

- High school graduation; and
- A minimum of two full years (4,000 hours) of recent and relevant occupational experience (experience is considered recent if it occurred no more than six years prior to the date of application). The local school district and the Office of Professional Preparation Services will determine the adequacy of the occupational experience.

**How to Apply:** Applications for this authorization can only be completed and submitted to the OPPS by an employing local or intermediate school district with an approved occupational education program. This authorization is valid for instructing in the occupational area specified on the application for one school year. All authorizations expire on June 30 of the school year.

- NO certificate is issued to the individual. However, the school district may access a report of individuals for whom the district has received approved Annual Authorizations. An Annual Authorization may be renewed, provided a school district is able to document that NO certificated teacher is available. Such documentation may be waived for a maximum of eight consecutive years, provided the teacher continuously completes credit each year towards occupational certification at an approved occupational education institution. If the credit is from a non-occupational institution or community college, an occupational plan or letter must be provided from the approved occupational education institution that the credit will count towards occupational certification.

### **Special Education Approvals**

The MDE, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services, issues full continuing or temporary approvals for Michigan certified teachers who do not hold special education endorsements. Approvals require a teaching certificate and partial completion of the applicable special education program through a Michigan teacher preparation institution. The temporary approval must be requested by an employing school district, not by the teacher. Information on these approvals, as well as those for special education administrators, can be found at:

[http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530\\_6598\\_40121---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_6598_40121---,00.html)

A searchable database of approval holders can be accessed at:

<http://mdoe.state.mi.us/approvalssearch/search.aspx>

### **Special Education Consultant**

Requires approval in addition to a teaching certificate with special education endorsement, but is not given as a certificate endorsement. Contact Special Education Services at (517) 373-9433.

### **Special Education Supervisor or Director**

Requires approval, but is not given as a certificate endorsement. Contact the Michigan College or university through which the candidate completed the applicable program or Special Education Services at (517) 373-0926.

### **School Social Worker**

Requires approval only—no teaching certificate available or required. Contact Special Education Services at (517) 335-0468.

### **Michigan School Nurse Certificate**

Issued to a person employed as a school nurse. There are three levels of School Nurse Certification: Interim, Standard, and Professional. The requirement for the Interim (initial) School Nurse Certificate is a valid Michigan RN license. Once the Interim is issued, the candidate must continue working towards a Bachelor of Science in Nursing or a health related field. The employing school or school district must apply for this certificate on behalf of the school nurse.



### **Military & Peace Corps Extension of Certificates**

Extension of Provisional/Professional Education Certificates are granted only on the basis of military or Peace Corps service rendered by the Provisional/Professional Education Certificate holder during the validity span of such certificate.

Extensions are not granted on the basis of the military or Peace Corps service of the spouse of the certificate holder.

Extensions are pertinent and available only to candidates who have rendered military or Peace Corps service. The expired Provisional/Professional Certificate holder who has not rendered military or Peace Corps service may qualify at any future time for a renewal as described in the "Provisional Renewal" section or "Professional Education Certificate Renewal" section. Extensions cannot exceed the validity span of the certificate.

**How to Apply:** After the completion of such service the candidate should send the Office of Professional Preparation Services a written request for such extension, and include with the request a photocopy of the military discharge document, or a copy of the service summary form from the Peace Corps authority, and a photocopy of his/her Michigan teaching certificate.

Attn: Edwardeen Jones  
Michigan Department of Education  
Office of Professional Preparation Services  
P.O. Box 30008, Lansing, MI 48909



### **Other School Assignment Areas & Approval Contacts**

- **Driver Education**  
Requires approval in addition to the teaching certificate: Contact Michigan Department of State, Driver Programs Division at (517) 241-6850.
- **Non-Teaching Athletic Coaches**  
Contact the Michigan High School Athletic Association at (517) 332-5046.
- **Swimming Coaches**  
Contact the Mid-Michigan American Red-Cross at (517) 484-7461.



### **No Child Left Behind (NCLB)/Highly Qualified Requirements**

Certification and Highly Qualified are NOT the same thing. A teacher who does not hold the appropriate certificate, endorsement or authorization (permit or "all subjects" designation) for an assignment in a position **cannot** gain Highly Qualified status. The first step in gaining Highly Qualified status must be appropriate state authorization, via certification, to teach the grade level and subject area. Above and beyond certification, NCLB requires all teachers of core academic subject areas be Highly Qualified. **Highly Qualified status is determined at the local level by the employer and not by the Michigan Department of Education.**

CORE ACADEMIC SUBJECT AREAS AS DEFINED BY NCLB INCLUDE:

English Science	Reading Foreign Languages	Language Arts Civics and Government Geography	Mathematics Economics
Arts*	History		

\*The arts in Michigan include visual arts, vocal and instrumental music, dance and theatre.

**“HIGHLY QUALIFIED” MEANS:** The teacher holds a least a bachelor’s degree and is certified, endorsed, or authorized to teach the subject, and has one of the following:

- Major in the content/subject (or equivalent of 30 semester credit hours); or
- Passed a rigorous state test in the content/subject; or
- Completed a state approved High Objective Uniform State Standards of Evaluation (HOUSSE); or
- Holds National Board Certification in the content/subject.

### **HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS IN MICHIGAN:**

All elementary certified teachers who have taken and passed the Elementary Education #83 Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) are considered Highly Qualified for grades K-5 (all subjects) and grades 6-8 (self-contained settings only).

All middle (6-8) and secondary (9-12) certified teachers who have taken and passed the MTTC for the endorsements listed on their certificates are considered Highly Qualified in those areas.

All middle and secondary certified teachers who hold a major in their endorsement area are considered Highly Qualified for that content/subject.

### **HOW TO DEMONSTRATE YOU ARE HIGHLY QUALIFIED:**

A teacher can demonstrate that they are Highly Qualified by one of the methods listed under “Highly Qualified” above. For those who choose to use a HOUSSE option, the applicable information is available on the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) website in the State Board of Education approved document “Michigan’s Definition for Identifying Highly Qualified Teachers”. The website address is: [www.michigan.gov/mde-hq](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-hq). Additional Highly Qualified teacher guidance can also be found here.

**MTTC/TESTING:** This test alone does not add an endorsement to a Michigan teaching certificate. In order to add an endorsement, a teacher must complete a state-approved endorsement program, including coursework.



### **Placement Services and Salaries**

The MDE does not operate a placement or referral service, or maintain salary information and does not publish a directory of Michigan school districts. A

complete directory of Michigan school districts is published by the Michigan Education Directory Inc., P.O. Box 15223, Lansing, MI 48901; (517) 482-8467.

### **College Teaching**

Michigan does not require or issue a college level teaching certificate.

### **Retirement**

Retirement (including shortage areas) questions should be directed to the Michigan Department of Management and Budget, Public School Employees' Retirement System, Secondary Complex, General Office Building, Third Floor, 7150 Harris Drive, P.O. Box 30171, Lansing, MI 48909, (517) 322-5103 or (800) 381-5111.

### **Teacher Tenure**

Tenure questions should be directed to the Office of Tenure at (517) 373-8369.

### **Nullification**

Upon written request of a teacher, OPPS may nullify one or more endorsements on the teaching certificate, or a grade level certification included in the teaching certificate if the grade level certification has not been used for 12 or more years. The endorsement cannot be reinstated, reissued, or renewed once nullified. Written request can be submitted using the form available upon request ([guthries@mi.gov](mailto:guthries@mi.gov)) or by written letter to:

Krista D. Ried, Supervisor  
Michigan Department of Education  
Office of Professional Preparation Services  
P.O. Box 30008, Lansing, MI 48909



## **Certification Fees**

Public Act 339 of 1988 requires the collection of a certification fee by the Department of Education "as a condition of having the application evaluated for conformance with the application requirements." As of April 1, 1989, all applicants, both those graduating from in-state colleges and those graduating from out-of-state colleges, are being charged certification fees according to the amounts specified in Public Act 339. The most frequently charged fees are listed below. For specifics on other certification fees, contact the Office of Professional Preparation Services for a copy of Public Act 339 (as amended).

<b><u>Application Fee</u></b>	<b><u>In-State</u></b>	<b><u>Out-of-State</u></b>
Provisional Certificate	\$160	\$210
Professional Certificate	160	210
Interim Occupational Certificate	160	210
Occupational Certificate	160	210
Administrator Certificate	160	210
Additional Endorsements	50	50
Teaching Permits	45	
Annual Occupational Authorization	40	
School Psychologist	160	210
Duplicate Certificate/Authorization	25	
School Guidance Counselor	160	210
Two-Year Extended Provisional Certificate	50	
Interim Teaching Certificate	160	
<b><u>Renewal Fee</u></b>	<b><u>In-State</u></b>	<b><u>Out-of-State</u></b>
Provisional	\$100	\$100
Professional	160	160
Interim Occupational Certification	100	100
Occupational	160	160
School Psychologist	160	160
School Guidance Counselor	160	160

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**Michigan State Board of Education  
Statement of Compliance  
With Federal Law**

The Michigan State Board of Education (SBE) complies with all Federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the U.S. Department of Education. It is the policy of the SBE that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, marital status or handicap shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity for which it is responsible or for which it receives financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education.

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**Information published by the Michigan Department of Education's, Office of Professional Preparation Services, 608 West Allegan, P.O. Box 30008, Lansing, Michigan 48909;**

**P: (517) 373-3310;**

**F: (517) 373-0542;**

**Websites:**

About the Office of Professional Preparation Services

[www.michigan.gov/opps](http://www.michigan.gov/opps)

About teacher certification

[www.michigan.gov/teachercert](http://www.michigan.gov/teachercert)

The Michigan Online Education Certification System

[www.michigan.gov/MOECs](http://www.michigan.gov/MOECs)