

Quick Facts about South Carolina's Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements



Who?

Who must be highly qualified?

All teachers in all public schools who provide the primary instruction in core academic subjects must be highly qualified. All teachers hired for the purpose of reducing class size, whose salaries are paid through the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Improving Teacher Quality Grant* funds must be highly qualified.

Who is not required to be highly qualified?

Teachers who instruct in the areas of physical education, health education, career and technology education, or driver education are not required to meet the highly qualified requirements. Teachers who do not provide the primary instruction in a core academic subject are not required to meet the highly qualified requirement. Such teachers *may* include, but are not limited to, special education teachers, ESOL, and Reading Recovery teachers who only provide reinforcement, accommodations, instruction in study skills, or act as a consultant to a highly qualified teacher of record. These teachers, however, because of scheduling or in certain models of instruction where they provide the primary instruction do have to be highly qualified.

Substitute teachers are not part of South Carolina's definition of a teacher and do not have to meet the requirements of being highly qualified. However, if substitutes or other non-HQ educators teach in a particular classroom for more than four weeks in a Title I school-wide or targeted assistance program, the school must notify parents that the students are being taught by individuals who are not highly qualified.



What?

What are the core academic subjects? The core academic subjects are: English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics, government, economics, history, geography, dance, art, and music.

What are the criteria for being highly qualified?

A highly qualified teacher must 1) have earned at least a bachelor’s degree, 2) document content knowledge in each core content area he or she teaches, and 3) have full state certification appropriate for the teaching assignment.

What types of certifications are acceptable?

The Office of Certification issues six types of teaching certificates that meet the highly qualified requirements for full state certification. They are as follows:

- Initial,
- Critical Needs (PACE, TFA, and ABCTE),
- International,
- Internship,
- Professional (includes Regular Grade A issued prior to 1970),
- Adjunct, and
- Restricted Alternative Certificate (RAC).

The Office of Educator Licensure phased out the issuance of unacceptable certifications for teachers of core academic subjects July 1, 2006. The Limited Professional certificate is not acceptable in public school settings.

What are the current certification grade levels?

South Carolina’s certification grade levels are as follows:

Early Childhood	PK-3
Elementary	2-6
Middle Level	5-8
Secondary	9-12
Special Education	P-12
Early Childhood Special Education	PK-3
Special Subjects	P-12 foreign languages, music, art, dance and reading

What certificates are required for teaching specific classes?

A teacher is only highly qualified if the educator’s certification is appropriate for the assigned classes. The *Required Credentials for Professional Staff Members in the Professional Programs of South Carolina’s Public Schools* document is updated annually and available on the website of the Office of Accreditation: <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/programs-services/112/>.



How?

How can early childhood, elementary, or special education teachers demonstrate knowledge in each core content subject they instruct?

<p>Certification Area</p>	<p>Options for <u>Documentation of Content Knowledge</u> <u>Exams in bold type are those which are currently acceptable by the Office of Educator Licensure and which are electronically reported by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Others may no longer be available.</u></p>
<p>Elementary Education (2-6)</p>	<p>PRAXIS II: <i>Instructional Practices and Applications</i> (#5015/<u>5019</u> computer) or PRAXIS II: Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Test (#5001) or NTE: <i>Education in the Elementary School</i>, or PRAXIS II: <i>Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment</i> (#0011; #5011), or PRAXIS II: <i>Elementary Education: Content Area Exercises</i> (#0012)</p>
<p>Early Childhood Education (PK-3)</p>	<p>PRAXIS II: Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Test (#5001) or PRAXIS II: <i>Instructional Practices and Applications</i> (#5015/5019 computer) NTE: <i>Education in the Elementary School</i>, or PRAXIS II: <i>Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment</i> (#0011; #5011), or PRAXIS II: <i>Elementary Education: Content Area Exercises</i> (#0012) or PRAXIS II: <i>The Education of Young Children</i> (#0021 paper or #5021/#5024 computer) or PRAXIS II or NTE in Early Childhood Education (#0020) or PRAXIS II: <i>Education of the Young Child</i> (#0021)</p>

Special Education in P-12 ¹	<p>PRAXIS II: Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Test (#5001)</p> <p>or</p> <p>PRAXIS II: <i>Instructional Practices and Applications</i> (#5015/5019 computer)</p> <p>or</p> <p>NTE: <i>Education in the Elementary School</i>,</p> <p>or</p> <p>PRAXIS II in <i>Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment</i> (#0011),</p> <p>or</p> <p>PRAXIS II in <i>Elementary Education: Content Area Exercises</i> (#0012)</p> <p>(Upper level subject exams or majors activate the HQ identifier for the correlating subject within the special education certification. For example, a major in English will activate the <i>Language Arts</i> for special education.)</p>
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¹Exceptional children education teachers who provide the primary instruction in a core academic subject for which any student is earning Carnegie units toward state graduation requirements must hold appropriate South Carolina certification, as described in the *Required Credentials for Professional Staff Members in the Instructional Programs of South Carolina's Public Schools*, and must demonstrate appropriate content knowledge in each core academic subject they teach.

How can middle or secondary school teachers demonstrate knowledge in each core content area that they instruct?

Certification Area	Options for Demonstrating Content Knowledge
<p>Middle Level (5-8)</p> <p>Middle Level Language Arts Middle Level Mathematics Middle Level Social Studies Middle Level Science</p> <p>Secondary School, (9-12)</p> <p>Biology Chemistry Economics English Geography Government History Mathematics Physics</p>	<p>A passing score on a state-approved certification examination in each core <i>academic subject</i> the teacher instructs</p> <p>Check the Educator Licensure webpage for a link to the most current exam options for middle, secondary, and P-12 special subjects.</p> <p>http://ed.sc.gov/agency/se/Educator-Services/Licensure/</p> <p>Choose the link for <i>Required Licensure Examinations</i>.</p> <p>or</p> <p>A major in the content area(s) in each core academic</p>

Science Social Studies P-12 Special Subject Advanced Fine Arts Art Dance Music Literacy Foreign Languages	<u>subject</u> the teacher instructs, or coursework equivalent to an undergraduate major; (Majors and their equivalents require thirty semester hours in the <u>subject</u> area, of which 21 semester hours must be at the 300 level or above. Twenty-four graduate semester hours in the <u>subject</u> area constitute a graduate major.)
	<p style="text-align: center;">or</p> A graduate degree, with at least 24 semester hours in the <u>subject</u> , in each core academic subject the teacher instructs



When?

When do teachers have to be highly qualified?

All teachers of core academic subjects must be highly qualified now.



Where?

In which schools do the teachers have to be highly qualified?

The requirement extends to all teachers of core academic subjects who are employed by agencies or entities under the authority of the State. Teachers in alternative educational settings, charter or magnet schools, technology centers, and juvenile institutions that offer core academic subjects must be highly qualified.

No Child Left Behind honors South Carolina’s charter school law. All charter school teachers must have at least a bachelor’s degree and documentation of content knowledge for the core academic subjects they teach. In addition, 75 percent of the teachers in charter schools and 90 percent of the teachers in conversion schools must have full state certification appropriate for their teaching assignments.

Where can I find assistance if I have questions?

Contact for Title II, Part A and HQ

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Title II, Part A

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