

Renewal Credit Matrix

The Renewal Credit Matrix outlines an array of options that an individual may use to maintain and renew the educator certificate by engaging in continuous professional learning opportunities. Eligible renewal activities must be completed within the validity period of the Professional certificate.

If the certificate is expired, credits must have been completed within the five-year period immediately prior to the application for certificate renewal. Pursuant to State Board regulation, a Professional educator certificate that has been expired for more than 10 years is not eligible for renewal. Instead, the educator must reapply for certification and meet current requirements.

Options 1–3 are available to all educators, regardless of their employment.

Options 4–9 are available to educators employed in a South Carolina public school district or SCDE-approved Renewal Entity.

Abbreviations used within the matrix include the following:

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
- National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)
- American Psychological Association (APA)
- International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training (IACET)
- Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Professional Teaching (ADEPT)
- Program for Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Principal Performance (PADEPP)
- Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)
- National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)

Renewal Credit Category	Description	Credits and Documentation
Option 1 College Credit	For renewal credit, college or university courses must be - completed through an institution that meets State Board of Education accreditation requirements (e.g., regional/institutional or CAEP accreditation); - taken for academic credit; - result in a grade of C or better or, a grade of “passing” if taken on a pass/fail basis; and - relate directly to the educator’s current certification, an additional certification field the educator is pursuing, or the educator’s established professional learning goals.	- An educator may earn up to 120 renewal credits in this category. 1 semester hour of earned course credit equals 20 renewal credits. A course earning 3 semester hours of college credit equals 60 renewal credits. 1 quarter hour of earned course credit equals 13 renewal credits. Documentation: Official transcript transmitted by the college or university.
Option 2 SCDE Certificate Renewal Course	All certificate renewal courses must - be approved by the SCDE; and - relate directly to the educator’s current certification, an additional certification field the educator is pursuing, or the educator’s established professional learning goals.	- The educator may earn up to 120 renewal credits in this category. 1 semester hour of earned course credit equals 20 renewal credits. A course earning 3 semester hour equals 60 renewal credits. 1 contact hour or 1 hour of direct participation equals 1 renewal credit. Documentation: Official transcript or certificate of completion issued by the provider or course facilitator.

Renewal Credit Category	Description	Credits and Documentation
Option 3 Continuing Education Units (CEUs)	The term CEU indicates standardized credit offerings as part of a professional development program. SCDE-approved CEUs include • CEUs approved by ASHA for SLP licensure and documented on an official ASHA CE transcript or other verification confirming ASHA continuing education credits earned; • CEUs approved by the SC Board of Examiners of Psychology under Category A for Psychologist licensure or activities approved by NASP or APA; • Credits approved by the South Carolina Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapists, Addiction Counselors, and Psycho-Educational Specialists (LLR) so long as the activity is applicable to PK-12 education; • Credits approved by the National Board of Certified Counselors so long as the activity is applicable to PK-12 education; • CEUs earned via a College Board-approved training for an Advanced Placement course and endorsement; • International Baccalaureate (IB)-approved credits; • CEUs issued by a college or university meeting State Board of Education accreditation requirements and documented on an official transcript; and • CEUs offered through an IACET accredited provider. Activities receiving IACET CEUs must be tied to the educator's certification or goals of the educator and employer.	• The educator may earn up to 120 renewal credits in this category. • 1 CEU equals 10 renewal credits. • 1 continuing education credit (CE) equals 1 renewal credit. • 1 contact hour or 1 hour of direct participation equals 1 renewal credit. Documentation: See description in each category of CEU.

Renewal Credit Category	Description	Credits and Documentation
Option 4 High-Quality Professional Learning Activities	Activities in this category must align with the SCDE Professional Learning Framework and to the educator's professional growth and development plan, certification field(s) and positions, additional fields or positions the educator is pursuing, or the priorities of the employing entity. These activities may be offered or provided • by a national, state, regional, district or locally approved provider; • as part of the district or employing entity's collegial professional development plan; and/or • within professional learning communities (PLCs). Professional learning in this category may also include participation in professional trainings and conferences related to the educator's work and goals or to priorities of the employing district or entity.	• The educator may earn up to 120 renewal credits in this category. • If a professional learning opportunity is the successful completion of a vetted, approved micro-credential, one micro-credential equals a maximum of 12 renewal credits. • Renewal credits for participation in a PLC may be earned for meetings as well as associated activities completed outside of meetings, such as collaborative planning, implementation of strategies, data analysis, reflection, and documentation of outcomes. • For other professional learning activities, 1 hour of direct participation equals 1 renewal credit. Documentation: Verification may vary based on the activity and should adhere to requirements established by the district or renewal entity. Educators are responsible for maintaining documentation as required by the employer.

Renewal Credit Category	Description	Credits and Documentation
Option 5 Professional Publications (Authorship)	The publication must • appear in a professional education publication (e.g. journal, book, etc.), • contribute to the effective practice of the education profession or the body of knowledge in professional education or the certification field, and • be a first-time publication. Revised versions or second editions of publications are not eligible for renewal credit. See additional information concerning publications in the section following the Credit Renewal Matrix.	• The educator may earn up to 60 renewal credits in this category. • Serving as the primary author of a book or refereed journal article equals 60 renewal credits. • Serving as the primary author of a book chapter or of a non-refereed article equals 30 renewal credits. • Serving as the secondary author of a book or article equals 15 renewal credits. Documentation: The educator must submit a synopsis of the publication and official verification from the publisher of the work's acceptance for publication, including the date of acceptance.

Renewal Credit Category	Description	Credits and Documentation
Option 6 Instruction	• Instruction can be used for renewal credit so long as the activity is ○ beyond the job responsibilities of the employee's position; ○ professionally oriented and educationally relevant; and ○ offered for the first time by the educator. • Eligible instructional activities in this category include ○ credit-bearing courses taught at a college or university, ○ professional development courses taught in a district or other setting, or ○ formal, prepared presentations given at conferences or professional meetings. • Instructional activities included in an individual's typical job responsibilities cannot be used for renewal credit.	• The educator may earn up to 60 renewal credits in this category. • 1 semester hour of college/university course credit equals 20 renewal credits. 1 quarter hour of college/university course credit equals 13 renewal credits. • Each hour of formal presentation or of teaching a professional development course equals 3 renewal credits. Documentation: Verification must include a copy of the course schedule or agenda indicating the date(s) and time(s) of the activity, and a brief synopsis or description including instructional objectives or learning outcomes.

Renewal Credit Category	Description	Credits and Documentation
Option 7 Professional Evaluator or Assessor	- The educator is eligible to receive renewal credits for serving as a professional assessor or evaluator for activities that are outside the employee's standard job responsibilities. - The employee must have received training or certification and approval to serve as an assessor/evaluator on a national-, state-, or entity-approved evaluation team (e.g., ADEPT or PADEPP evaluator, Cognia or CAEP evaluator, NBPTS assessor, etc.) and must complete all requirements of the evaluation process.	- The educator may earn up to 60 renewal credits in this category. 1 hour of direct participation equals 1 renewal credit. - A maximum of 30 renewal credits may be issued for each instance of participation on an assessment or evaluation team. Documentation: The verification must be issued by the coordinating educational entity and include a description of the activity, and the date(s) and total hours of direct participation.

Renewal Credit Category	Description	Credits and Documentation
Option 8 Mentoring, Supervision, or Instructional Coaching	The educator is eligible to receive renewal credits in this category for activities that • are beyond the employee's standard job responsibilities; • assist another educator in advancing their professional skills; and • are provided in conjunction with an approved induction, training, coaching, or other professional development program.	• The educator may earn up to 60 renewal credits in this category with a maximum of 30 renewal credits earned per instance. Maximum Accrual Rates • Supervision of a full-time student: 20 renewal credits per semester • Mentoring a beginning teacher or fellow educator (full year): 30 renewal credits • Coaching other educators (full year): 20 renewal credits • Supervision of an intern, practicum student, or Teacher Cadet: 10 renewal credits per semester. Documentation: official verification of successful completion of the service as a mentor, supervisor, or coach by the coordinating entity, including date(s) and total hours of direct participation.

Renewal Credit Category	Description	Credits and Documentation
Option 9 Educational Project, Collaboration, Grant, or Research	Renewal credits for educational projects, collaborations, grants, or research are awarded for activities • beyond the educator’s typical job responsibilities; • coordinated or approved by an educational entity; • relate to student achievement and/or the goals of the employer; • resulting in a product relevant to PK-12 education; and • are a minimum of 5 hours in length.	• The educator may earn up to 60 renewal credits via this option during the five-year validity period of the certificate. • 1 hour of direct participation equals 1 renewal credit. • Each activity within this option may earn a maximum of 30 renewal credits. Documentation: A synopsis of the activity and verification issued by the educational entity including a description, dates, and hours of direct participation.

Refereed or Peer Reviewed Materials

Refereed materials are publications reviewed by subject matter experts or referees prior to the publication of materials. After reading and evaluating the material, the referee or panel or expert readers informs the publisher if the document should be published or if any changes should be made prior to publication. Refereed materials may also be referred to as peer reviewed. Refereed materials add to the body of professional research and literature and assure readers that the information conveyed is reliable and timely.

Non-Refereed Materials

Non-refereed materials such as trade journals or magazines—whether print or online—use less rigorous standards of screening prior to publication. In some publications, each article may be screened only by the publication’s editor or be accepted for publication with limited review.