



Required Credentials for Professional Staff in South Carolina's Public Schools - Overview 2026-27

Pursuant to State Board Regulation 43-50

2026-27 School Year

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Purpose

Required Credentials for Professional Staff in South Carolina's Public Schools (Required Credentials) establishes requirements for educators and other professional staff to be assigned to specific roles, positions, grade levels, and courses in public schools and school districts.

Pursuant to State Board of Education (State Board) [Regulation 43-50, Persons Required to Hold a Teaching Certificate](#), “each individual employed in an instructional, classroom teaching position or who serves in a position designed for the support of the instructional program of this state must hold an appropriate South Carolina teaching credential.” *Required Credentials* provides a listing of the acceptable certification field(s) and additional qualifications for educators and other professional staff working in various settings and roles and teaching specific courses and grade levels.

Even if a specific position or course is not listed in *Required Credentials*, an individual employed in an instructional, classroom teaching position or serving in a position designed for the support of the instructional program *must* hold a valid South Carolina educator certificate.

The certification requirements included in this document apply to teachers and administrators employed in public charter schools except as provided for in [charter school statute and regulations](#).

Course Code Database

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) maintains a [course code database](#) listing standardized codes for courses, instructional activities, and non-instructional activities used in the student information systems in South Carolina public schools. The database provides the foundation on which course codes, class scheduling, and class sections are built and standardizes data that are collected for federal and state funding and accountability purposes.

Format of Required Credentials

Organization

Required Credentials is comprised of this overview document and a series of spreadsheets.

- *Required Credentials Overview*
This overview document provides general information and guidance concerning the required qualifications for assigning professional staff.

- **Position and Course Assignment Spreadsheets**
These spreadsheets delineate the acceptable qualifications for district level and school-based professional positions as well as for assignment to teach specific courses. Course listings are organized by grade span and subject area and include course and activity codes from the SCDE course code database.

Both the guidance document and spreadsheets are maintained on the SCDE webpage [Required Credentials for Educator Assignments](#).

Certification Fields and Additional Mandatory Requirements

In the *Required Credentials* spreadsheets, acceptable certification fields and related codes are listed for positions and courses. If an assignment to a role or course requires certification and additional mandatory attendant training beyond the certification field, the requirement is denoted with a + sign and then specified.

The abbreviation **GLC** or “grade level certification” will be listed if the acceptable credential is any certification field appropriate to the grade level of the course.

Staffing Assignments

In-field Assignment

South Carolina educators and other professional staff must be appropriately qualified for the positions they hold and the courses and grade levels to which they are assigned. This requirement applies to professional staff employed directly by a public school or school district and to those individuals employed through a third-party provider (i.e., a purchased service educator). Additionally, professional staff must be appropriately qualified regardless of the setting or modality in which they provide instruction or services—face-to-face, hybrid, or virtual.

An individual who is appropriately qualified for the position held is considered to be assigned ***in-field***.

To be considered ***teaching in-field***, an educator designated in PowerSchool as the teacher of record for a specific course or activity code must be appropriately certified for the subject area and grade level of the course as outlined in *Required Credentials*. An educator holding a certification permit in the specific subject area and grade level of a course is also considered to be assigned ***in-field***.

Inactive Certification Fields

In some instances, the acceptable certification for a course includes an inactive field—essentially, a certification field that is no longer issued by the SCDE. An educator whose certificate includes an inactive field may be assigned to a role or course and considered ***in-***

field so long as the educator certificate remains valid and the inactive field is still listed as acceptable in *Required Credentials*.

Out-of-Field Assignment

An individual who is assigned for any portion of the school or workday in a position, course, or grade-level for which he or she is not appropriately certified is considered **out-of-field** for that assignment. The number of educators assigned **out-of-field** may impact a school or district's accreditation status and may have further implications for federal compliance and reporting (e.g., Title I, IDEA, etc.) and for state compliance and reporting, including state accountability and school report cards.

Certification Permits

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-5-75 and [Regulation 43-53, Credential Classification](#), the State Board has established [guidelines](#) for the issuance of certification permits for educators in classroom teaching, service, and leadership fields. An educator who qualifies for and is issued a certification permit in a specific certification field is appropriately certified (i.e., in-field) for assignment to associated courses and roles.

Certification permits may be issued to eligible educators in the following areas:

- all classroom teaching fields,
- all leadership and administrative fields,
- designated service fields of
 - School Librarian and
 - School Counselor.

Certification permits are not issued in the fields of School Psychologist and Speech-Language Pathologist.

For teaching fields, an educator must have earned 12 semester hours toward the additional certification field to be eligible for a certification permit. A permit may be issued for a subsequent year by meeting permit renewal requirements and progress toward adding the area in full.

For eligible service and leadership fields, an educator must be enrolled in an approved preparation program and have earned 12 semester hours toward the new certification field. Renewal requirements apply for permit renewal.

The deadline for districts to request a certification permit is April 30 annually (e.g., April 30, 2025, for a permit for the 2024-25 school year); however, districts are encouraged to submit permit requests to the SCDE Office of Educator Services as early as possible in the school year to prevent accreditation and other reporting consequences.

Certification Proviso for Middle Level and First Grade

The General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2026-27 includes [Proviso 1.53](#), a teacher certification exemption that allows:

- teachers certified in a high school content area to teach the same content area in seventh or eighth grade without adding the corresponding middle level certification, and
- teachers certified in Elementary Education to teach first grade without adding Early Childhood certification.

Requirements for District Level Administrative and Professional Staff

Pursuant to [Regulation 43-205, Administrative and Professional Personnel Qualifications, Duties, and Workloads](#), individuals “employed as administrative assistants, supervisors, and consultants having responsibilities for supervising instructional programs and student services must hold a master’s degree and be certified in their area of primary responsibility or must earn a minimum of 6 semester hours annually toward appropriate certification.” For these individuals, the district superintendent or the superintendent’s designee must request issuance of a certification permit for any member of the central staff who is not properly certified for the position held.

Some district-level positions (e.g., human resources director, finance director, etc.) may not require educator certification although individuals working in these positions may benefit from experience as a certified educator—and an employing school district, at its discretion, may require educator certification for the position.

Requirements for School Level Administrative and Professional Staff

School leaders and instructional service professionals must be appropriately certified for the positions they hold or be eligible for a certification permit for the role and meet annual permit renewal requirements toward adding the certification field in full.

Academic Courses and Activity Codes

Early Childhood and Elementary (PK–Grade 6)

Teachers must be appropriately certified for the courses and grade levels to which they are assigned or be eligible for a certification permit and meet annual permit renewal requirements toward adding the appropriate certification field in full. By proviso, an educator certified in Elementary Education may teach first grade without adding Early Childhood certification.

Grades 7 and 8

Teachers must be appropriately certified for the courses and grade levels to which they are assigned or be eligible for a certification permit and meet annual permit renewal requirements toward adding the appropriate certification field in full. By proviso, an

educator certified in a high school certification field may teach that same subject in grades 7 and 8 without adding the corresponding middle level certification.

Grades 9–12

Teachers must be appropriately certified for the courses and grade levels to which they are assigned or be eligible for a certification permit and meet annual permit renewal requirements toward adding the appropriate certification field in full.

Many high school courses require a specific certification field and a related specialized endorsement. Regulation 43-258.1, Advanced Placement, establishes that teachers of Advanced Placement (AP) courses must be appropriately certified for the subject area of the course and must add the specialized endorsement for the specific AP course. Newly assigned teachers of AP courses have one calendar year to meet the course training requirements to add the particular AP endorsement.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Teachers must be appropriately certified for the courses and grade levels to which they are assigned or be eligible for a certification permit and meet annual permit renewal requirements toward adding the appropriate certification field in full.

Credit-bearing Courses

Placement in Required Credentials

All credit-bearing courses are listed in the grades 7–12 spreadsheets of *Required Credentials*. If a credit-bearing course is taught in Grades 7 and 8, the same 9–12 activity code applies. A credit-bearing course that is not listed in *Required Credentials* is either a locally designed elective course approved by the local board of trustees, or a locally designed subject course approved by the SCDE. The required credentials for teachers of locally designed elective courses are determined by the local board of trustees.

Teachers of Credit-bearing Courses in Grades 7 and 8

Teachers of credit-bearing courses in grades 7 and 8 must hold either middle level/middle school certification in the content area or high school certification in the content area. Additionally, teachers of credit-bearing courses in grades 7 and 8 must demonstrate content competency with a qualifying score on a middle level or high school subject area assessment accepted by the State Board and SCDE for certification purposes.

English 1, Algebra 1, and Geometry

For in-field assignment, an educator assigned to teach English 1, Algebra 1, or Geometry may hold middle level or high school certification in the subject area no matter where the course is taught. The teacher must have demonstrated content competency with a

qualifying score on a middle level or high school subject area assessment accepted by the State Board and SCDE for certification purposes in the specific content area.

Dual Enrollment Courses

Colleges and universities offering dual enrollment courses for high school students in South Carolina public schools must determine the appropriate qualifications of course instructors to meet institutional accreditation requirements. For this reason, dual enrollment courses are not listed in *Required Credentials*.

Special Education

Assignment Guidance for Teachers of Special Education

Assigning a special education teacher requires a review of the teacher's certification field(s) and the primary disability category of the specific students being served in each class. When a special education teacher serves students who have different primary disability categories within one class, the acceptable certification field(s) of the teacher is determined by the primary disability category of the majority of students in the class.

Maximum Teaching Load

Pursuant to [Regulation 43-205, Administrative and Professional Personnel Qualifications, Duties, and Workloads](#), when special education teachers serve students who have differing disability categories, the maximum teaching load must be determined by the majority of the students in enrollment in the area of disability.

Adult Education

Requirements for educators working in South Carolina adult education programs differ depending on the nature of the instructional program.

High School Equivalency, Basic Skills, and Literacy

An educator providing instruction in basic skills and literacy or supporting learners in attaining high school equivalency must hold a valid South Carolina teaching certificate. The certificate can be in any field or grade span.

Courses for High School Credit

An educator teaching courses for high school credit as part of an adult education program must be appropriately certified for the course.

English for Speakers of Other Languages

Please contact the SCDE Office of Career Readiness for information on the appropriate qualifications of personnel supporting English learners who receive services through an adult education program but are not enrolled in a high school equivalency program.

Appendix A: Active Certification Fields

Category	Code	Certification Field Title
Academic	49	Advanced Fine Arts - Art
Academic	49	Advanced Fine Arts - Dance
Academic	49	Advanced Fine Arts - Music
Academic	49	Advanced Fine Arts - Theater
Academic	30	Agriculture
Academic	31	Agriculture Mechanics
Academic	34	Animal Science
Academic	50	Art
Academic	94	ASL - American Sign Language
CTE	AJ	Automotive Collision Repair
CTE	AK	Automotive Technology
CTE	AA	Aviation: Avionics
CTE	AD	Aviation: Drones
CTE	AF	Aviation: Manufacturing
CTE	AMF	Aviation: Movement and Flight
CTE	BP	Barbering
Academic	14	Biology
CTE	AL	Brick Masonry
Academic	4H	Business and Marketing Education
CTE	AM	Carpentry
Academic	15	Chemistry
Academic	5D	Chinese
CTE	EB	Clothing Design and Construction Services
CTE	CT	Commercial Transportation
Academic	79	Computer Science
CTE	AT	Cosmetology
Leadership	76	CTE Director
CTE	AQ	Culinary Arts
Academic	58	Dance
CTE	CA	Diesel Engine Mechanics
CTE	DG	Digital Art and Design
CTE	AU	Drafting
Academic	63	Driver Education
Academic	85	Early Childhood
Academic	17	Earth and Space Science
Academic	23	Economics
CTE	AV	Electricity
CTE	AW	Electronics

Category	Code	Certification Field Title
Academic	1	Elementary
CTE	MS	Emergency Medical Services
CTE	ET	Engineering Technology
Academic	4	English
Academic	5A	English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
CTE	AG	Environmental Control System (HVAC)
CTE	ES	Esthetics
Academic	35	Family & Consumer Science (Home Economics)
CTE	DD	Fire Services
Academic	38	Forestry
Academic	5	French
Academic	24	Geography
Academic	8	German
Academic	8A	Gifted and Talented
CTE	GL	Global Logistics
Academic	25	Government
CTE	AX	Graphic Communications
Academic	5H	Greek
Academic	64	Health
CTE	AC	Health Science Technology
CTE	HE	Heavy Equipment
Academic	21	History
Academic	39	Horticulture
CTE	EC	Hospitality and Tourism
Academic	29	Industrial Technology Education
CTE	EH	Information Technology
Academic	5I	Italian
Academic	5B	Japanese
Academic	6	Latin
CTE	LE	Law Enforcement
Academic	5E	Literacy Coach
Academic	5F	Literacy Specialist
Academic	5G	Literacy Teacher
CTE	BA	Machine Tool Technology
CTE	CC	Marine Engine Repair
Academic	10	Mathematics
CTE	DC	Media Technology
Academic	1E	Middle Level Language Arts
Academic	1F	Middle Level Mathematics
Academic	1G	Middle Level Science

Category	Code	Certification Field Title
Academic	1H	Middle Level Social Studies
Academic	8B	Montessori ECE (3k-5k)
Academic	8C	Montessori Elementary I (Grades 1–3)
Academic	8D	Montessori Elementary II (Grades 4–6)
Academic	8E	Montessori Middle Language Arts (Grades 6–8)
Academic	8F	Montessori Middle Math (Grades 6–8)
Academic	8G	Montessori Middle Science (Grades 6–8)
Academic	8H	Montessori Middle Social Studies (Grades 6–8)
Academic	8I	Montessori Secondary
Academic	55	Music
Academic	51	Music Education: Choral
Academic	54	Music Education: Instrumental
Academic	52	Music Education: Piano
Academic	56	Music Education: Strings
Academic	53	Music Education: Voice
CTE	EG	Nail Technology
Academic	67	Physical Education
Academic	16	Physics
CTE	BC	Plumbing
Academic	5J	Portuguese
Academic	26	Psychology
Academic	9	Russian
Service	86	School Counselor: Elementary
Service	89	School Counselor: Secondary
Service	60	School Librarian
Leadership	7B	School Principal: Elementary - Tier 1
Leadership	7D	School Principal: Elementary - Tier 2
Leadership	7C	School Principal: Secondary - Tier 1
Leadership	7E	School Principal: Secondary - Tier 2
Service	69	School Psychologist I
Service	84	School Psychologist II
Service	78	School Psychologist III
CTE	BF	Small Engine Repair
Academic	20	Social Studies
Academic	27	Sociology
Academic	7	Spanish
Academic	2K	Special Education: Early Childhood
Academic	2E	Special Education: Emotional Disabilities
Academic	2D	Special Education: Hearing Impairments
Academic	2H	Special Education: Intellectual Disabilities

Category	Code	Certification Field Title
Academic	2G	Special Education: Learning Disabilities
Academic	2I	Special Education: Multi-categorical
Academic	2J	Special Education: Severe Disabilities
Academic	2B	Special Education: Visual Impairments
Service	2M	Speech Language Pathologist
Service	2N	Speech Language Pathologist - Intern
Leadership	70	Superintendent
Academic	77	Teaching Children of Poverty
Academic	5C	Theatre
CTE	BK	Welding

Appendix B: Active Specialized Endorsements

Endorsement Code	Endorsement Title
1	Advance Placement Art History
3	Advance Placement Biology
4	Advance Placement Calculus AB
5	Advance Placement Calculus BC
6	Advance Placement Chemistry
31	Advance Placement Chinese Language and Culture
16	Advance Placement Comparative Government and Politics
32	Advance Placement Computer Science A
66	Advance Placement Computer Science Principles
51	Advance Placement English Language and Composition
52	Advance Placement English Literature and Composition
12	Advance Placement Environmental Science
18	Advance Placement European History
54	Advance Placement French Language and Culture
55	Advance Placement German Language and Culture
21	Advance Placement Human Geography
34	Advance Placement Italian Language and Culture
35	Advance Placement Japanese Language and Culture
56	Advance Placement Latin
23	Advance Placement Latin Vergil
9	Advance Placement Macroeconomics
8	Advance Placement Microeconomics
24	Advance Placement Music Theory
57	Advance Placement Physics 1
58	Advance Placement Physics 2
59	Advance Placement Physics: Electricity and Magnetism
60	Advance Placement Physics: Mechanics
26	Advance Placement Psychology
69	Advance Placement Research
67	Advance Placement Seminar
61	Advance Placement Spanish Language and Culture
62	Advance Placement Spanish Literature and Culture
29	Advance Placement Statistics
2	Advance Placement Studio Art
17	Advance Placement United States Government and Politics
19	Advance Placement United States History
20	Advance Placement World History
70	English for Speakers of Other Languages

Endorsement Code	Endorsement Title
30	Gifted and Talented
39	Gifted and Talented Intermediate
40	Online Teaching
47	Postsecondary Transition Specialist
48	Project based Learning
45	Read to Succeed Literacy Coach
46	Read to Succeed Literacy Specialist
43	Read to Succeed Literacy Teacher
44	Read to Succeed Requirement
68	STEAM Education
49	Teacher Leader
41	Teaching Children of Poverty

Appendix C: Inactive Certification Fields (Fields No Longer Issued)

Code	Certification Field Title
43	Accounting
44	Accounting & Related Business
48	Accounting & Related Economics
7A	Administrator
49	Advanced Fine Arts
4D	Advanced Fine Arts - Art
4E	Advanced Fine Arts - Dance
4F	Advanced Fine Arts - Music
4G	Advanced Fine Arts - Theatre
AA	Agricultural Mechanics
AH	Appliance Repair
88	Associate Guidance - Secondary
75	Attendance Supervisor
47	Business Education
AN	Business Machine Repair
4B	Business/Marketing/Computer Technology
AP	Cabinet Making
EA	Child Care Services
BN	Commercial Art
AR	Commercial Photography
4A	Computer Programming
BL	Cooperative Training
DA	Criminal Justice
46	Data Information Processing
CG	Data Processing
CF	Dental Laboratory Technician
32	Distributive Education
33	Diversified Education
87	Educational Evaluator
71	Elementary Principal
73	Elementary Supervisor
DE	Entertainment Technology
37	Environmental Science & Natural Resources
11	General Mathematics
13	General Science
90	Guidance - Secondary Advanced
65	Health & Physical Education
66	Health & Physical Education (PT No Longer Issued)

Code	Certification Field Title
CE	Heavy Equipment Mechanic
CD	Heavy Equipment Operator
36	Industrial Arts
CB	Industrial Maintenance Mechanics
AY	Industrial Sewing
EE	Information Technology - Networking
ED	Information Technology - Programming
3A	Marine Biology
AF	Mechanical Drawing
62	Media Communication Specialist
59	Media Supervisor
1A	Middle School Language Arts
1B	Middle School Mathematics
1C	Middle School Science
1D	Middle School Social Studies
40	Office Occupations and Commerce
4C	Online Teaching
BB	Painting & Decorating
BM	Prevocational
DB	Protective Services
BD	Radio & TV Repair
83	Reading Clinician
81	Reading Consultant
82	Reading Coordinator or Director
80	Reading Teacher
93	School Social Worker I
92	School Social Worker II
91	School Social Worker III
72	Secondary Principal
74	Secondary Supervisor
45	Secretarial Science
BE	Sheet Metal
BQ	Shoe Repair
41	Shorthand
2A	Sp. Ed. - EMD
2	Sp. Ed. - Generic Special Ed
2HL	Sp. Ed. - Mental Disabilities
2F	Sp. Ed. - Orthopedically Impaired (No Longer)
2C	Sp. Ed. - TMD
3	Speech - Language Therapist

Code	Certification Field Title
57	Speech & Drama
BG	Tailoring
61	Teacher Librarian
BH	Textiles
BJ	Tile Setting
42	Typing