



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Deans and Directors of Teacher Education

**FROM:** Mary Hipp, Director  
Office of Educator Services

**DATE:** June 12, 2024

**RE:** Middle Level Certification Policy Updates

This memorandum communicates policy and processing updates concerning in-state graduates of middle level preparation programs.

Specifically, this updated guidance addresses the certification process for a candidate who has completed a middle level program with two certification fields, as documented by the college or university on the verification of educator preparation.

Previously, we have required a candidate who completed a program with two middle level certification fields to attempt both subject area assessments. To assist candidates and to support districts in meeting staffing needs, a middle level candidate will no longer be required to attempt both exams.

A candidate who has completed a middle level program with two certification fields:

- has the right to apply for certification in both certification fields or only in one certification field;
- is no longer required by the Office of Educator Services to attempt the subject area assessment for both areas. The candidate may elect to take the exam for only one certification field;
- will be issued a certificate in a single middle level field so long as all other requirements are met and a passing exam score is on file.

These updates are effective immediately both for new applicants and for candidates who applied earlier under the previous policy.