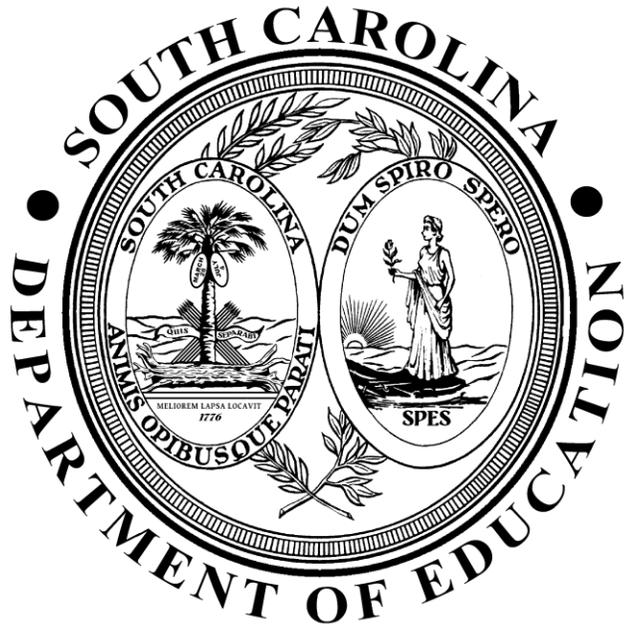


**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION



Specialized Alternative Certification Guidelines

Pursuant to State Board of Education Regulation 43-62 Areas of Certification

March 13, 2018

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The Legislative Mandate

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 59-5-60(1), 59-25-110, 59-26-10 et seq., and 20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.

State Board of Education Regulation 43-62. Areas of Certification.

I. INITIAL CERTIFICATION AREAS AND GRADE SPANS

In consultation with the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE), the State Board of Education (SBE) has the authority to establish initial certification areas or fields as well as certification grade spans, to revise or amend certification areas, and to abolish certification areas that no longer reflect professional practice or needs of South Carolina schools and students.

II. ADDING AREAS OF CERTIFICATION

In consultation with the SCDE, the SBE has the authority to establish certification areas that may be added to a valid educator certificate, to revise or amend these areas, and to abolish add-on certification areas that no longer reflect professional practice or needs of South Carolina schools and students. In order to add an additional area of certification to a valid South Carolina credential, an educator must complete the specific requirements for that area as outlined by the SBE's guidelines.

III. SPECIALIZED ENDORSEMENTS

In consultation with the SCDE, the SBE has the authority to establish specialized endorsements that may be added to a valid educator certificate, to revise or amend specialized endorsement areas, and to abolish specialized endorsement areas that no longer reflect professional practice or needs of South Carolina schools and students. In some instances, an endorsement may be required to teach specific courses. In other instances, the endorsement represents additional training and study to enhance an educator's professional practice. In order to add an endorsement to a valid South Carolina teaching credential, an educator must complete the specific requirements for that area as outlined by the SBE.

IV. SPECIALIZED ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION

In consultation with the SCDE, the SBE has the authority to establish alternative certification areas and routes that are based on specialized training and do not lead to an alternate route certificate, revise or amend these specialized areas, and abolish specialized alternative certification areas that no longer reflect professional practice or needs of South Carolina schools and students. In order to be issued an educator certificate in one of these areas, the applicant must complete the specific requirements for that area as outlined by the SBE.

Introduction

Regulation 43-62 Areas of Certification establishes that the State Board of Education (SBE), in consultation with the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE), has the authority to establish and amend specialized alternative certification areas and routes to meet the needs of South Carolina schools and students. These certification areas require specialized training but do not lead to the issuance of an alternative route certificate as established in Regulation 43-53 Credential Classification. In order to be issued an educator certificate in a specialized alternative certification area, the applicant must submit all application documents as required in Regulation 43-52 Application for Teaching Credential, to include fingerprint-based federal and state criminal records reports, and must complete the specific requirements for that area as outlined in these guidelines.

I. ADJUNCT CERTIFICATE

The Adjunct certificate allows a public school or school district to utilize a content area expert to fill a limited instructional need. The request for the issuance of an Adjunct Certificate must be initiated by the public school or school district seeking to hire an individual under one of the two options outlined below.

A. Locally-identified Content Area Expert

The Adjunct certificate issued under this option does not lead to a standard educator certificate but may be renewed as indicated. An educator who has been issued an Adjunct Certificate who wishes to pursue a standard educator certificate may do so through completion of an approved traditional educator preparation program or through an approved alternative route program.

1. Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to pursue the Adjunct certificate for a locally-identified content expert, the following conditions must be met.

- a. The individual must have earned a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited college or university.
- b. A public school or school district in the state must be willing to employ the individual as a teacher on a part-time basis in a content field at the middle or secondary school level or in the related arts or physical education at the elementary level.

2. Applicant Requirements

- a. The individual must complete the application process for South Carolina educator certification, including an all-clear fingerprint review and submission of all documents as required in Reg. 43-52 Application for Teaching Credential;
- b. The individual must have earned a bachelor's degree or higher with a major in or related to the field of certification, or must submit passing scores on the content certification exam(s) required for the certification area if one exists; and

- c. The individual must submit verification of five years of occupational experience within the past ten years in, or related to, the content field of the certificate for which the individual is applying. If the SCDE determines that this requirement is not met, the individual and the employing public school or school district may apply to the SBE for a determination as to whether adequate occupational experience is documented to justify the issuance of an Adjunct Certificate.

3. Employer Requirements

The public school or school district seeking to employ the individual must provide the following documentation to the SCDE teacher certification office:

- a. a written request and justification for employment of the instructor,
- b. an assurance that the employment of this instructor will not displace a certified teacher already employed, and
- c. an assurance that the adjunct instructor's teaching assignment will be less than a .5 full-time equivalent position and will not exceed two credit-bearing courses in an academic year.

4. Stipulations

If approved, the Adjunct certificate is valid for three school years, subject to the other stipulations here stated.

- a. The Adjunct certificate is valid only in the sponsoring public school or district and is not transferrable to any other public school, district, or state.
- b. During the initial three-year validity period of the Adjunct certificate, the sponsoring employer must assign the adjunct instructor a trained mentor who is certified in the same content area or grade level in which the instructor is assigned to teach.
- c. The adjunct instructor must be evaluated annually by the sponsoring school or school district and must receive successful performance reviews for the certificate to be reissued for subsequent years at the request of the sponsoring employer.
- d. The adjunct instructor must complete a minimum of 20 contact hours of professional development approved by the sponsoring employer during each three-year period the certificate is held.
- e. The salary for the adjunct instructor will be determined by the sponsoring employer.
- f. When requesting renewal of an educator's Adjunct Certificate for an additional three-year period, the sponsoring employer must provide documentation of successful performance reviews and required professional development.

B. Eligible Candidate for the Program of Alternative Certification of Educators (PACE)

A PACE candidate who possesses a valid Statement of Eligibility issued by the SCDE teacher certification office may be issued an Adjunct Certificate under one of the following conditions.

1. Eligibility Requirements

- a. The individual with a valid PACE Statement of Eligibility becomes employed by a South Carolina public school or school district too late in the school year to qualify to attend and successfully complete the PACE Pre-service Institute and be issued a first-year PACE certificate for that school year.
- b. The individual is employed by a South Carolina public school or school district but qualifies for a PACE Statement of Eligibility after the start of the PACE Winter Pre-service Institute and cannot be issued a first-year PACE certificate.

2. Employer Requirements

- a. The public school or school district must submit a written request to the SCDE teacher certification office for the issuance of the Adjunct Teacher certificate for a PACE-eligible candidate who qualifies under this option.
- b. The individual must be employed in the certification field for which he or she is PACE-eligible.
- c. The individual may be employed up to 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) for less than a full school year.
- d. The employer must provide appropriate formative support, assistance, and feedback to the educator and must assign a trained mentor certified in the same content area or grade level.

3. Stipulations

- a. The Adjunct certificate will be issued for the remainder of the school year for which it is requested and will expire on June 30 of that year.
- b. An Adjunct certificate issued under this option cannot be renewed. If offered continued employment by the school or school district, the educator must attend the next available PACE Pre-service Institute and qualify for a first-year PACE Alternative Route certificate. If the individual is not offered continued employment by the sponsor, he or she may renew the PACE Statement of Eligibility and seek employment in another public school or school district. Alternately, the individual may seek certification through completion of an approved teacher preparation program at a regionally accredited college or university.

II. ADVANCED FINE ARTS

This specialized alternative certification is intended as a pathway for individuals with a degree and professional experience in an area of the fine arts to pursue a professional teaching certificate.

A. Eligibility Requirements

Teachers for advanced fine arts programs who do not meet the requirements for certification in any existing area of certification may be issued an Initial teaching certificate if all of the following requirements are met:

1. The school district offers courses in the fine arts aligned with the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards for Visual and Performing Arts Proficiency.
2. The school district superintendent requests certification for the prospective teacher in writing, describing the situation in which the teacher will work and the exact nature of the proposed duties of the teacher.
3. The candidate has earned an undergraduate or graduate degree in the specific area of the fine arts from a nationally or regionally accredited institution of higher education or an institution that has programs approved for teacher education by the SBE.
4. The candidate presents evidence of at least two years of successful professional experience in the area of the fine arts that he or she is expected to teach.
5. The candidate presents a passing score on the required content area assessment(s) approved for certification purposes by the SBE.

B. Certificate Renewal and Advancement

1. The Initial certificate in the area of Advanced Fine Arts will be issued for three years and may be renewed in accordance with Regulation 43-53 (I)(A) Credential Classification.
2. In order to advance from an initial to professional certificate in Advanced Fine Arts, the individual must complete each of the following requirements.
 - a. The individual must complete a total of twelve semester hours of graduate level course work in professional education including courses in teaching methods and the psychology of learning. Courses must be completed through a regionally accredited college or university with approved teacher preparation programs. The individual must earn a grade of C or better in each course as documented through the submission of an official transcript from each college or university.

- b. The individual must complete the induction and summative evaluation requirements of South Carolina’s system for Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Professional Teaching (ADEPT).
- c. The individual must submit a successful score on a pedagogy examination approved for certification purposes by the SBE.

III. MONTESSORI EDUCATION

Individuals who complete specialized training recognized by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) may be issued certification in the field of Montessori Education in one or more of the grade spans indicated below.

A. Levels of Certification in Montessori Education

Primary (3K–5K)

Elementary I (grades 1–3)

Elementary II (grades 4–6)

Middle (grades 6–8)

High School (grades 9–12)

The field of Montessori Education may be added to an existing educator certificate or issued on an initial certificate. Requirements for each method are indicated below.

B. Eligibility Requirements for Adding Montessori Education to a Valid Certificate

An individual who wishes to add Montessori Education to an existing valid educator certificate must meet the following requirements.

1. The educator must have earned a Bachelor’s degree or higher.
2. The educator must possess a valid initial or professional certificate in the corresponding age or grade span (i.e., early childhood, elementary, or middle level, or secondary) or in a pre-K–12 certification field. An individual with a certificate in a pre-K–12 field who wishes to add certification in a level of Montessori Education must submit a minimum qualifying score on the content area examination required by the SBE for certification in that grade span (i.e., early childhood, elementary, or middle level). An individual seeking to add certification in High School Montessori Education (grades 9–12) must hold a valid South Carolina educator certificate in the specific subject area (e.g., English, social studies, mathematics, science, etc.) in order to be eligible to add the field of Montessori.
3. The educator must present documentation of successful completion of a MACTE-approved training program at the appropriate level.

C. Initial Certification in Montessori Education

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An individual who wishes to qualify for an initial certificate in the field of Montessori Education must meet all requirements for an Initial teaching certificate as outlined in Regulation 43-51 Certification Requirements and must fulfill one of the following options.

1. The individual must complete an undergraduate or graduate teacher preparation program approved by the SBE in the area of early childhood, elementary, or middle-level education that includes a Montessori emphasis (i.e., all requirements for a MACTE-approved training program) AND must submit passing scores on the appropriate level content area and pedagogy examinations approved for certification purposes by the SBE.
2. Alternately, the individual must have earned a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university and must present documentation of successful completion of a MACTE-approved training program at the appropriate level. The individual seeking an Initial certificate under this option must submit passing scores on the appropriate grade level content area and pedagogy examinations approved for certification purposes by the SBE. The educator who earns an Initial certificate in Montessori Education under this option may not add other certification fields to the credential without completing an SBE-approved teacher preparation program in the additional field.
3. An individual seeking initial certification in High School Montessori Education must first qualify for a South Carolina credential in the specific subject area (e.g., English, social studies, mathematics, science, etc.) and present documentation of successful completion of a MACTE-approved training program at the appropriate level.