



## South Carolina Title III Multilingual Learner and Immigrant Program ESOL Endorsement & ESOL Certification Information

Districts should refer to the [Required Credentials for Professional Staff Members in the Instructional Programs of South Carolina's Public Schools](#) document for guidance on which certifications must be held in a given employment. To be eligible to teach multilingual learners (ML), which is categorized as a special area of certification under English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), the following are the acceptable certifications and mandatory attendant training requirements:

- Certification in any teaching area at the appropriate grade level (e.g., Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle, High School, PK-12)
  - ESOL add-on certification is encouraged by the state education agency (SEA) and may be required by the local education agency (LEA).
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) certification

District and school professional staff members must hold appropriate credentials for the positions they occupy in order to meet accreditation standards mandated by State Board of Education Regulation 43-300. Please review your district policy for additional information about certification requirements. For additional certification questions, contact the Education Certification Office at [certification@ed.sc.gov](mailto:certification@ed.sc.gov) and (803) 896-0325.

### Certification Endorsements

In addition to adding full fields to an existing certificate, an educator may add endorsements in specialized areas to recognize additional expertise. In order to add an endorsement, an educator must complete the specific requirements for the endorsement. Please be aware that endorsements cannot be initial fields of certification; these must be added to a pre-existing certification in a full field(s).

Note: No grade levels are associated with endorsements, only certification fields. Therefore, an endorsement does not extend an educator's certification to teach outside their area of certification (e.g., a certified K-3 teacher may not teach grades 6-12 as they do not hold appropriate grade level certification to teach at that level).

Certification endorsements reflect the completion of specialized training in addition to an educator's certification fields. **Some endorsements may be required to teach a specific course in a South Carolina public school district, while others serve as testaments to an educator's dedication to continuing professional development in a specialized area.**

**NOTE:** The SCDE recommends that districts consider educators with ESOL Certification or ESOL endorsement through coursework, including practicum, for the employment of ML Program Specialists/ESOL Teachers, as this is the only ESOL endorsement pathway that may lead to full ESOL certification.

## Ellevation Professional Learning Opportunity Pathway - ESOL Certification Endorsement

The Ellevation professional learning opportunity for the South Carolina ESOL certification endorsement pathway is only approved for the ESOL endorsement, not the full certification field. The ESOL certification endorsement pairs with an educator's current certification field and serves as a testament to an educator's dedication to continuing professional development in a specialized area.

There is no provision to use the Ellevation modules to meet any requirements for the full ESOL certification field. See the [Ellevation Professional Learning Opportunity Guidance document](#) and the [ESOL Endorsement FAQs](#) (you'll be prompted to make a copy) for additional information.

After educators have received the Ellevation certification upon completing the Ellevation professional learning opportunity for the South Carolina ESOL certification endorsement, they must submit a request to receive the official SCDE certificate. Educators may submit the official SCDE certificate to the local school district to award applicable renewal credits. Districts must reference the [Renewal Credit Matrix](#) when awarding such credits. Educators completing Ellevation modules for renewal credits but are not earning the Ellevation professional learning opportunity for the South Carolina ESOL certification endorsement may also submit their individual Ellevation module certificates to the local school district for potential renewal credits. Awarding renewal credits is a local decision, and educators should collaborate with the district Title III/ML Coordinator and applicable district staff.

- **Is the ESOL certification endorsement worth it?**

The short answer is yes. No matter what subject you teach, you probably have multilingual learners (MLs) in your classroom.

“Every teacher is a language teacher and there is a shared responsibility for the success of all our students. This makes having shared expectations and common language important”.

*([WIDA - Teacher Voices: Cooperative Assessing](#), NCIC Immersion School, China \*)*

Please review your district policy for additional information about certification requirements. Many districts require educators to hold an ESOL certification or to be working towards a certification upon employment. An educator who completed the Ellevation pathway is only approved for the ESOL endorsement, not the full certification field. To receive the full ESOL certification, such educator will need to complete all coursework from an accredited university as if they did not currently hold an ESOL endorsement since the Ellevation pathway does not meet the coursework requirement to pursue full certification.

The requirements for the full ESOL certification are in the [Guidelines and Requirements for Adding Certification Fields and Endorsements](#) (pages 12-13). See the [ESOL Endorsement and ESOL Certification Courses](#) list with potential options that may offer the course requirement needed to obtain an ESOL endorsement and/or certification.

**The Ellevation pathway for the ESOL certification endorsement will only be available to educators after July 29, 2024, for districts that opted to fund Ellevation Strategies beyond the SCDE’s Ellevation Education contract end date.**

## ESOL Certification

The [Guidelines and Requirements for Adding Certification Fields and Endorsements](#) by the SCDE indicate that the certification field of ESOL requires specialized preparation and may not be added by method of exam.

### A. Requirements to add ESOL by Coursework

1. Bachelor's degree or higher;
2. Initial or Professional certificate at the early childhood, elementary, middle, secondary, or PK–12 level;
3. Minimum qualifying score(s) on the content area examination(s) required by the SBE for the content area; and
4. Completion of all required coursework with an equivalent grade of “C” or better.
5. Required Courses
  - Principles and Strategies for Teaching ESOL to
    - PK–12 Learners 3 semester hours
  - Linguistics 3 semester hours
  - Teaching Reading and Writing to Limited English Proficient (LEP) Learners 3 semester hours
  - Two of the following elective courses: 6 semester hours
    - Testing/Assessment for Language Minority Learners
    - ESOL Curriculum Design and Materials Development
    - Teaching English through the Content Areas
    - Bilingual Special Education
    - Second Language Acquisition for Teachers of PK–12 Learners
    - English Grammar/Structure
    - Cultural Diversity in Education
  - Practicum in the Instruction of ESOL to Elementary and Secondary Learners  
*The practicum may be waived based on documentation of one year of successful experience teaching ESOL.*

### B. Requirements to add ESOL by Exam

Not available for ESOL

#### Summary

##### ESOL Endorsement

- Must be added to an Initial or Professional certificate
- Two pathways to obtain
  - Ellevation professional development or
  - Coursework, including practicum (completed through an accredited university)

##### ESOL Certification Field (ML Program Specialist/ESOL Teacher PK-12)

- Full PK-12 certification field
- Added by college coursework and exam


**NOTE:** The SCDE recommends that districts consider educators with ESOL Certification or ESOL endorsement through coursework, including practicum, for the employment of ML Program Specialists/ESOL Teachers, as this is the only ESOL endorsement pathway that may lead to full ESOL certification. **If applicable, one should review their district's policy for the length of time educators may take to obtain full ESOL Certification if employed while completing coursework to qualify to serve multilingual learners (ML) K-12. The timeframe expectation may be a determining factor for employment since an ESOL endorsement does not extend an educator's area of certification.**

There is no specific indicator on an educator's ESOL endorsement certificate from the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE), of which ESOL endorsement pathway an educator pursued (i.e., Ellevation professional development or Coursework, including practicum). To ensure educators received the ESOL endorsement through coursework, including practicum, SCDE advises LEAs to request that educators present the document they were required to submit to SCDE via the [My SC Educator Portal](#) to add the endorsement.

An educator who received the ESOL endorsement through

- the Ellevation professional development pathway submits a certificate of completion (see sample on p. 5).
- coursework, including practicum from an accredited university, submits a transcript (see sample on p. 5).

### SCDE's ESOL Endorsement Certificate

South Carolina State Board of Education Educator Certificate						
Certificate Number	Educator ID	Certificate Type	Class	Class Effective Date	Validity Period	Experience
		Teaching - Professional	Doctorate	7/1/2020	7/1/2022 - 6/30/2024	10 Years
<p>The status and validity of this educator certificate may be verified via the SC Educator information system available on the website of the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE). The holder of this credential has satisfactorily met requirements for the issuance of a South Carolina educator certificate in the fields indicated and is responsible for knowing and meeting all requirements to maintain the validity of the credential. Important certificate information for educators is available on the SCDE Educator Certification webpages. Please review each page of this document carefully for additional information.</p>						
Certification Fields	Effective Date	Endorsements	Effective Date			
Elementary	7/1/2009	English for Speakers of Other Languages	1/1/2024			
			Date Printed 5/1/2024			



## ESOL Endorsement through Coursework, including practicum (Accredited University) Transcript Sample

ELON UNIVERSITY									
Doer, Jane Sally					12/06				
COURSE	UNIVERSITY	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	GRADE	COURSE	UNIVERSITY	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	GRADE
Transfer Work									
HST 121	UNIVERSITY	US History Through 1865	4.00	A	ECO 310	UNIVERSITY	Spring 2010	4.00	A
ENG 110	UNIVERSITY	College Writing	4.00	A	ECO 203	UNIVERSITY	Intermediate Macro Theory	4.00	A
MTH 121	UNIVERSITY	Calc & Analytic Geometry I	4.00	A	ECO 203	UNIVERSITY	Statistics for Decision-Making	4.00	A
Term GPA 0.000				Credit 12.00	ENR 278	UNIVERSITY	Press, Politics During Cold W	4.00	A
Cum GPA 0.000				Credit 12.00	POL 111	UNIVERSITY	American Government	4.00	A
					Term GPA 3.425				
					Credit 16.00				
Fall 2008									
CHM 111	UNIVERSITY	General Chemistry I	3.00	B	Cum GPA 3.403				
BIO 111	UNIVERSITY	Introductory Cell Biology	3.00	A	Credit 17.00				
CHM 111	UNIVERSITY	General Chemistry I Lab	1.00	A					
BIO 113	UNIVERSITY	Cell Biology Laboratory	1.00	A	STA 244	UNIVERSITY	New Zealand Preparatory Sem	1.00	A
GST 110	UNIVERSITY	HRMS: The Global Experience	4.00	A	ECO 311	UNIVERSITY	Intermediate Micro Theory	4.00	A
SLM 101	UNIVERSITY	Econ 101	1.00	C	ECO 314	UNIVERSITY	International Trade & Finance	4.00	A
MTH 212	UNIVERSITY	Statistics in Application	4.00	A	ECO 347	UNIVERSITY	Introduction to Econometrics	4.00	A
Dean's List					POL 222	UNIVERSITY	State and Local Govt/Politics	4.00	A
Term GPA 3.738				Credit 17.00	President's List				
Cum GPA 3.738				Credit 29.00	Term GPA 3.859				
					Credit 17.00				
					Cum GPA 3.651				
					Credit 104.00				
Winter 2009									
ENG 255	UNIVERSITY	Playing With Shakespeare	4.00	B	GST 244	UNIVERSITY	Business of New Zealand/ELN	4.00	A
Term GPA 3.300				Credit 4.00	Term GPA 4.000				
Cum GPA 3.450				Credit 33.00	Credit 4.00				
					Cum GPA 3.649				
					Credit 108.00				
Spring 2009									
BIO 114	UNIVERSITY	Population Biology Laboratory	1.00	A	ENR 499	UNIVERSITY	Honors Thesis	2.00	A
BIO 112	UNIVERSITY	Intro Population Biology	3.00	A	ECO 412	UNIVERSITY	Public Finance	4.00	A
HRM 111	UNIVERSITY	Contemporary Wellness Issues	2.00	A	MTH 231	UNIVERSITY	Calc & Analytic Geometry II	4.00	A
JNR 133	UNIVERSITY	The Nature of Science	4.00	A	POL 328	UNIVERSITY	Public Policy	4.00	A
MTH 231	UNIVERSITY	Mathematical Reasoning	4.00	A	POL 374	UNIVERSITY	Intro to the Study of Law	2.00	A
PSY 111	UNIVERSITY	General Psychology	4.00	B	President's List				
Dean's List					Term GPA 4.000				
Term GPA 3.711				Credit 18.00	Cum GPA 3.714				
Cum GPA 3.679				Credit 51.00	Credit 124.00				
Fall 2009									
ECO 201	UNIVERSITY	Principles of Financial Acctg	4.00	A	ECO 348	UNIVERSITY	Mathematical Economics	4.00	A
ECO 111	UNIVERSITY	Principles of Economics	4.00	B	MTH 321	UNIVERSITY	Multivar. Calc/Analyt Geomet	4.00	A
JNR 277	UNIVERSITY	NY/Civil Rights: Memory & Lit	4.00	B	MTH 311	UNIVERSITY	Linear Algebra	4.00	A
CIS 211	UNIVERSITY	Management Information Systems	4.00	A	JNR 499	UNIVERSITY	Honors Thesis	4.00	A
Dean's List					President's List				
Term GPA 3.575				Credit 16.00	Term GPA 4.000				
Cum GPA 3.648				Credit 67.00	Cum GPA 3.750				
					Credit 140.00				
Winter 2010									
POL 116	UNIVERSITY	Local Gov't Simulation	4.00	A	GST 342	UNIVERSITY	Understanding Educational Disp	4.00	A
Term GPA 3.700				Credit 4.00	Term GPA 4.000				
Cum GPA 3.652				Credit 71.00	Cum GPA 3.757				
					Credit 144.00				
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REJECT DOCUMENT IF SIGNATURE BELOW IS DISTORTED									
<i>Rodney L. Parks</i>									
Rodney L. Parks, University Registrar									

If you have any questions, please contact the Title III Program office at [TitleIIIML@ed.sc.gov](mailto:TitleIIIML@ed.sc.gov).  
 For additional certification questions, contact the Education Certification Office at [certification@ed.sc.gov](mailto:certification@ed.sc.gov) and (803) 896-0325.