

## **South Carolina Department of Education International Teaching Certificate: Evaluation, Certificate Advancement, and Support**

Educators working in South Carolina public schools, who hold an international teaching certificate on a J-1 visa status, must participate in the teacher evaluation process, starting with induction (formative). These educators must be issued contract levels, *not to exceed the annual level*, and an evaluation process, following the same sequence as educators who hold all other forms of teaching certificates issued by the Office of Educator Certification at the South Carolina Department of Education.

International teaching certificates are valid for a period of three years, with extensions available for up to two additional years based on qualifying criteria. In order to receive an initial certificate, the educator must present the required test scores for the specialty area and PLT. Educators on a J-1 visa status are allowed to advance only to an annual level contract, and must not be issued a continuing contract, as an international certificate is considered a temporary certificate. Upon the culmination of the validity period, should the educator return to South Carolina to teach in the public school system, he or she must re-enter at the beginning contract level of induction and repeat each phase of the educator evaluation system, and again may earn up to an annual contract.

Educators who choose to stay in the United States, seek employment within the South Carolina public schools, and attain H1-B visa status, must meet all requirements as specified by the Office of Educator Certification to obtain an initial teaching certificate. In addition, if the educator successfully completed part or all of the evaluation process while holding an international certificate, the educator still must *repeat all contract levels and evaluation requirements*, beginning with the induction level, once they receive the initial certificate as an H1-B visa holder. Educators who hold H1-B visas and an initial certificate must successfully complete induction (Formative Evaluation) and the Summative Evaluation while they hold their initial certificate, in order to be eligible to advance to a continuing contract and professional certificate.