

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

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## South Carolina Certification Fields and Specialized Endorsements

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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 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. These guidelines establish the fields and related grade spans in which South Carolina offers educator certification.

For the purpose of these guidelines, a certification field is defined as content area or subject that may be issued on an educator credential and reflects an educator's content and/or professional preparation.

Educator certificates are issued for the following three categories:

- Teaching Fields,
- Service Fields, and
- Leadership and Administrative Fields.

Listed in each section below are the individual certification fields with related grade span or age range. Please note that in referring to grade spans, the following abbreviations are used throughout this document:

- Pre-Kindergarten: PK
- Kindergarten: K

This document lists the content area fields that may be issued on a South Carolina educator certificate. Information regarding the acceptable certification fields for the roles and responsibilities to which an educator may be assigned is published annually by the SCDE in the Required Credentials for Professional Staff Members in the Instructional Programs of South Carolina's Public Schools.

If a certification field is eliminated, it will remain on an educator's certificate so long as the individual maintains a valid credential.

If a certification field is revised or updated, the previous title will remain on an educator's certificate so long as the individual maintains a valid credential. An educator has the option to request an evaluation to determine eligibility for the revised certification field.

If a certification field is renamed without substantial changes to the requirements, the current field listed on an educator's certificate may be updated with the new title.

## I. Teaching Fields

South Carolina offers educator certification in the following classroom teaching fields and related grade spans.

### A. *Early Childhood and Elementary Education*

- Early Childhood Education (PK–Grade 3)
- Elementary Education (Grades 2–6)
- Montessori Education Early Childhood (3K–5K)
- Montessori Education Elementary I (Grades 1–3)
- Montessori Education Elementary II (Grades 4–6)

### B. *Middle Level Education*

- Middle Level Language Arts (Grades 5–8)
- Middle Level Mathematics (Grades 5–8)
- Middle Level Science (Grades 5–8)
- Middle Level Social Studies (Grades 5–8)
- Montessori Middle Language Arts (Grades 6–8)
- Montessori Education Middle Math (Grades 6–8)
- Montessori Education Middle Science (Grades 6–8)
- Montessori Education Middle Social Studies (Grades 6–8)

### C. *High School Education*

- Agriculture Education (Grades 9–12)
- Agriculture Education: Agricultural Mechanics (Grades 9–12)
- Agriculture Education: Animal Sciences (Grades 9–12)
- Agriculture Education: Environmental Science and Natural Resources (Grades 9–12)
- Agriculture Education: Forestry (Grades 9–12)
- Agriculture Education: Horticulture (Grades 9–12)
- Business and Marketing Education *effective July 1, 2021*
- Business/Marketing/Computer Technology (Grades 9–12) *no longer issued after June 30, 2021*
- Computer Science (Grades 9–12)
- Driver Education (Grades 9–12)
- English (Grades 9–12)
- Family and Consumer Science (Grades 9–12)
- Industrial Technology Education (Grades 9–12)
- Mathematics (Grades 9–12)
- Montessori Secondary (Grades 9-12) *requires subject area certification*
- Science (Grades 9–12)
- Biology (Grades 9–12)

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- Chemistry (Grades 9–12)
- Earth and Space Science (Grades 9–12)
- Physics (Grades 9–12)
- Social Studies (Grades 9–12)
- Economics (Grades 9–12)
- Geography (Grades 9–12)
- Government (Grades 9–12)
- History (Grades 9–12)
- Psychology (Grades 9–12)
- Sociology (Grades 9–12)

#### *D. All Grades*

- Art (PK–Grade 12)
- Advanced Fine Arts–Art (PK–Grade 12)
- Advanced Fine Arts–Dance (PK–Grade 12)
- Advanced Fine Arts–Music (PK–Grade 12)
- Advanced Fine Arts–Theater (PK–Grade 12)
- Dance (PK–Grade 12)
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) (PK–Grade 12)
- Gifted and Talented (PK–Grade 12)
- Health Education (PK–Grade 12)
- Literacy Teacher (PK–12)
- Literacy Coach (PK–12)
- Literacy Specialist (PK–12)
- Music Education (PK–Grade 12)
- Music Education–Choral (PK–Grade 12)
- Music Education–Instrumental (PK–Grade 12)
- Music Education–Piano (PK–Grade 12)
- Music Education–Strings (PK–Grade 12)
- Music Education–Voice (PK–Grade 12)
- Physical Education (PK–Grade 12)
- Theater (PK–Grade 12)

#### *E. World Language*

- American Sign Language (PK–Grade 12)
- Chinese (PK–Grade 12)
- French (PK–Grade 12)
- German (PK–Grade 12)
- Greek (PK–Grade 12)
- Italian (PK–Grade 12)
- Japanese (PK–Grade 12)
- Latin (PK–Grade 12)

- Portuguese (PK–Grade 12)
- Russian (PK–Grade 12)
- Spanish (PK–Grade 12)

The SCDE will submit additional areas for approval as school districts develop instructional programs in other world languages.

#### *F. Special Education*

- Special Education: Visual Impairments (PK–Grade 12)
- Special Education: Hearing Impairments (PK–Grade 12)
- Special Education: Early Childhood (Ages 3–5)
- Special Education: Emotional Disabilities (PK–Grade 12)
- Special Education: Intellectual Disabilities (PK–Grade 12)
- Special Education: Learning Disabilities (PK–Grade 12)
- Special Education: Multi-categorical (PK–Grade 12)
- Special Education: Severe Disabilities (PK–Grade 12)

\*The Special Education related certification field of Speech-Language Pathologist (PK–Grade 12) is listed below in Section II Service Fields.

#### *G. Career and Technical Education (CTE)*

South Carolina offers work-based certification in the following CTE areas. The eligibility and certification requirements for educators seeking certification in one of these fields are outlined in Regulation 43-63 Requirements for Career and Technology Education Work-based Certification.

- Automotive Collision Repair (Grades 9–12)
- Automotive Technology (Grades 9–12)
- Barbering (Grades 9–12)
- Carpentry (Grades 9–12)
- Clothing Design and Construction (Grades 9–12)
- Cosmetology (Grades 9–12)
- Culinary Arts (Grades 9–12)
- Diesel Technology (Grades 9–12)
- Digital Art and Design (Grades 9–12)
- Drafting (Grades 9–12)
- Electricity (Grades 9–12)
- Electronics (Grades 9–12)
- Emergency and Firefighting Services (Grades 9–12)
- Engineering Technology (Grades 9–12)
- Environmental Control Systems (Grades 9–12)
- Esthetics (Grades 9–12)
- Graphic Communications (Grades 9–12)

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- Health Science Technology (Grades 9–12)
- Information Technology (Grades 9–12)
- Law Enforcement Services (Grades 9–12)
- Machine Tool Technology (Grades 9–12)
- Marine Engine Repair (Grades 9–12)
- Masonry (Grades 9–12)
- Media Technology (Grades 9–12)
- Nail Technology (Grades 9–12)
- Plumbing (Grades 9–12)
- Power Equipment Technology (Grades 9–12)
- Welding (Grades 9–12)

## **II. Service Fields**

South Carolina offers certification in the following service fields. Professional educators certified in these areas provide instructional and support services directly to students and other school professionals. The eligibility requirements for certification in these service fields are established in Regulation 43-64 Requirements for Initial Certification at the Advanced Level.

- School Librarian (PK–Grade 12) *effective July 1, 2020*
- School Counselor–Elementary (PK–Grade 8)
- School Counselor–Secondary (Grades 6–12)
- School Psychologist I (PK–Grade 12)
- School Psychologist II (PK–Grade 12)
- School Psychologist III (PK–Grade 12)
- Speech Language Pathologist (PK–Grade 12) *effective July 1, 2020*

## **III. Leadership and Administrative Fields**

South Carolina offers certification in the following leadership and administrative fields. Professional educators certified in these areas may serve in leadership roles in school and/or district settings. The eligibility requirements for certification and advancement in these leadership and administrative fields are established in Regulation 43-64 Requirements for Initial Certification at the Advanced Level.

- Elementary Principal–Tier 1 (PK–Grade 8)
- Elementary Principal–Tier 2 (PK–Grade 8)
- Secondary Principal–Tier 1 (Grades 6–12)
- Secondary Principal–Tier 2 (Grades 6–12)
- Superintendent (PK–Grade 12)
- Vocational/Technology/Career Center Director (Grades 6–12)

#### **IV. Certification Endorsements**

The following specialized certification endorsements may be added to the certificate of an educator who meets eligibility requirements established in the SBE-approved Guidelines and Requirements for Adding Certification Fields and Endorsements.

- Advanced Placement (issued for teaching specific courses)
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- Gifted and Talented
- Online Teaching
- Project-based Learning
- Read to Succeed (R2S) Literacy Teacher
- Read to Succeed (R2S) Literacy Coach
- Read to Succeed (R2S) Literacy Specialist
- Secondary Transition Specialist
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics (STEAM) Education
- Teaching Children of Poverty
- Teacher Leader