



OSPI

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State Superintendent

2017 Educator Certification Requirement Update

Due to the passing of House Bill 1341 during the special legislative session this past summer, policy and implementation of certification requirements have been revised.

The Certification office has sent email notifications the week of November 13, 2017 to the educator groups listed below. Each email provided a breakdown of the changes in requirements specific to each certificate type.

Continuing Certificates (teacher, administrator, ESA)

- The required amount of continuing education hours (clock hours) has been decreased from 150 to 100. This is now in effect.
- The value of a Professional Growth Plan (PGP) will decrease from 30 to 25 clock hours beginning 07/01/2018.

Professional Certificates (teacher, administrator, ESA)

- The required amount of continuing education hours (clock hours) has been decreased from 150 to 100. This is now in effect.
- The value of a Professional Growth Plan (PGP) will decrease from 30 to 25 clock hours beginning 07/01/2018.
- Renewing with a National Board Certificate is only available one time during the validity of the Professional certificate and cannot be the same National Board Certificate used to obtain the Professional certificate. This is now in effect.

CLARIFICATION:

There is no change to the validity period of professional certificates for NBCTs.

NBCTs are issued a Washington state professional certificate for a length of time that includes the validity period of their National Board certificate. This length of time is five years or until the expiration date of the National Board certificate, whichever is greater, meaning a NBCT may be issued a professional certificate for five to ten years. This policy has been in place for a number of years.

The **only new change** is language that prevents the multiple renewals of the Washington state professional certificates beyond the validity period of a single National Board certificate. This only impacts the extremely small number of applicants who were attempting to use a single National Board certificate to renew a professional certificate for more than ten years.

Additional information may be found through the currently revised WAC 181-79A-251

[WSR Filing Number 17-20-051](#)

- Renewal applications shall not be submitted earlier than twelve months prior to the expiration date of the current certificate. This is now in effect.
- These changes apply to ALL Professional certificate holders, even if your certificate was issued since 09/01/2014. You may choose to submit clock hours, PGPs, academic credit, or a mixture of to meet renewal requirements. This is now in effect.

Valid Residency Certificates (teacher, administrator, ESA)

- Advancement to the 2nd tier certificate is now optional. This is now in effect.
- First Five-Year renewal
- Completion of 100 Washington State approved clock hours, PGPs, or equivalent academic credit earned within the five years prior to the date of renewal application
- Completion of coursework in issues of abuse
- Application and fee submitted through the E-Certification system
- Subsequent Five-Year renewal
- Subsequent renewals can be issued for five years based on completion of 100 Washington State approved clock hours, PGPs, or equivalent academic credit earned since the issuance of the most recent renewal certificate
- Application and fee submitted through the E-Certification system

Documentation of completed clock hours/credits/PGPs is required when renewing an expired Residency certificate.

TEACHERS ONLY- Applications submitted 09/01/19 and beyond- the STEM renewal requirement will apply to certificate holders endorsed in STEM related areas.

- The value of a Professional Growth Plan (PGP) will decrease from 30 to 25 clock hours beginning 07/01/2018.
- Renewal applications shall not be submitted earlier than twelve months prior to the expiration date of the current certificate. This is now in effect.

Expired Residency Certificates (teacher, ESA)

- Advancement to the 2nd tier certificate is now optional. This is now in effect.
- Five- Year renewal for expired certificates
- Completion of 100 Washington State approved clock hours, PGPs, or equivalent academic credit earned within the five years prior to the date of renewal application
- Completion of coursework in issues of abuse
- Submit all documentation of completed clock hours, PGPs, or equivalent academic credit
- Application and fee submitted through the E-Certification system
- Subsequent Five-Year renewal
- Subsequent renewals can be issued for five years based on completion of 100 Washington State approved clock hours, PGPs, or equivalent academic credit earned since the issuance of the most recent renewal certificate
- Application and fee submitted through the E-Certification system

Documentation of completed clock hours/credits/PGPs is required when renewing an expired Residency certificate.

Applications submitted 09/01/19 and beyond- the STEM renewal requirement will apply to certificate holders endorsed in STEM related areas.

- The value of a Professional Growth Plan (PGP) will decrease from 30 to 25 clock hours beginning 07/01/2018.
- Renewal applications shall not be submitted earlier than twelve months prior to the expiration date of the current certificate. This is now in effect.

You may find additional information on all new and existing renewal requirements for your certificate type by visiting the [Certification website](#).

Certification requirements are subject to change. The certificated professional is responsible for being knowledgeable about current and revised regulations. It is the responsibility of the certificate holder to obtain and maintain valid appropriate Washington certification to practice in this state.

Professional Certification

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