

Classification – is a broad area of “like” licenses

Classifications: There are five classifications of certificates of license to teach in Missouri. There are also six levels of licensure. Each classification offers an initial certificate that is valid for four years and requires the individual to meet various requirements on mentoring, performance evaluation and professional development. Each classification also offers a career continuous certificate that is valid for 99 years to individuals who successfully complete the initial requirements and continue to meet various requirements on evaluation, professional development, years of experience, and/or advancement to a higher college degree. The classifications are as follows:

- **Administration** – Administrators are principals, superintendents, career education directors and special education directors. This classification requires two-years of teaching experience and a master’s degree in administration/leadership. In order to qualify for a superintendent’s license, the individual must have a minimum of an education specialist’s degree and two years of administrative experience. Administrators are required to be mentored for two years (superintendents only one year).
- **Adult Education and Literacy (AEL)** – This license allows an individual to teach persons 16 years of age or older English and mathematics skills. It requires a bachelor’s degree and completion of courses in methods/testing/etc.
- **Career (Vocational) Education** – This license allows individuals to teach in various fields such as nursing, automotive, occupational family and consumer science, and trade/industrial and technology fields. Individuals must have a bachelor’s degree in their content field and meet other requirements. Some areas of certification require job experience in lieu of the bachelor’s degree.
- **Professional** – Professional certificates are required to teach in subjects areas in elementary, middle- and high-schools. The licenses are grade and subject-area specific. Special education and librarians are also in this classification area. A professional license requires, at least, a bachelor’s degree and other specific requirements. Prior to 2003, professional certificates were called PCI, PCII and CPC – these types of certificates should be upgraded to the initial or career continuous type

of licenses. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards license is recognized by Missouri.

- **Student Services** – This classification covers counselors, psychologists, speech/language pathologists, or career education evaluators. Generally, certificates in student services area require a master’s degree or higher in an education-related profession. School Psychologists' National Board certification is recognized by Missouri.

Types of Missouri Certificates/Licenses – are specific subjects or grade levels within a classification. – Types of licenses vary from early childhood, elementary, middle-school subject specific, high-school subject specific, vocal music, special education, school psychologist, etc.

- **Initial** certificate/license is the first license a new educator receives. A minimum of a baccalaureate degree from a college/university having a teacher education program approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or from a college/university having a teacher education program approved by the state education agency in states other than Missouri is required.

The applicant must have a recommendation for certification from the designated official for teacher education in the college/university where the program was completed.

The applicant must have a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; both overall and in the content area.

The applicant must complete the required Praxis test(s). (If you completed your teacher education program and were certificated before September 1, 1990, you are exempt from this requirement.) A list of the Missouri Specialty Area Tests with the qualifying scores can be found on the DESE website.

- **Transition** certificate is limited to administrators. For example: A new administrator must have a master's degree in order to obtain the initial (first) certification. After four years, he/she must enroll in an education specialist's degree or doctoral degree program and while they are doing that, they can be issued a transition certification. By the tenth year of employment as an administrator, the individual must complete the education specialist's degree or higher and obtain the career continuous administrator's certificate.
- **Career Continuous** is a 99-year (permanent) license. It requires an individual to continue to maintain a professional development plan, have successful performance-based evaluations, and annually report professional development to the Department. Individuals who complete two of the three following items, no longer are required to report the professional development to the Department: ten years of certified

experience; the next higher college degree (above the entrance requirement); or national certification from a recognized agency.

- **Provisional** – This is a two-year, nonrenewable certificate for educators who lack a few hours of meeting all the requirements for full certification. The largest numbers of provisional certificates are issued to individuals who are enrolled in a college-based alternative/innovative program, have not yet passed their required Praxis test, or are adding areas to an existing certificate. A provisional certificate is issued at the request of an employing district and may require an academic contract with a college or university.
- **Temporary** – This is a one-year, renewable certificate issued to individuals who have a bachelor's degree in a content or closely-related field and who agree to meet a variety of requirements – including taking a number of college courses in pedagogy and passing the appropriate Praxis II test(s). A temporary certificate is issued at the request of an employing district.
- **Substitute** – This is a one-year certificate that requires a minimum of 60 semester hours of liberal arts, college credit and is issued at the request of an employing district.
- **Lifetime** – This license is no longer issued. Prior to September 1988, applicants who met all licensure requirements were issued a lifetime certificate and that certificate is still valid without completing any further requirements.