



IDAHO

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVE AUTHORIZATIONS/ROUTES TO CERTIFICATION IN IDAHO

Note: The intent of this summary is to provide a broad overview of the Idaho State Board Rules regarding the alternative authorizations/routes to certification available in Idaho.

RULE: IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (IDAPA 08, TITLE 02, CHAPTER 02)

042. ALTERNATE ROUTES TO CERTIFICATION

The purpose of this program is to provide an alternative for individuals to become certificated teachers in Idaho without following a standard teacher education program. Alternative Routes to Certification shall allow individuals to serve as the teacher of record prior to having earned full certification status. The teacher of record is defined as the person who is primarily responsible for planning instruction, delivering instruction, assessing students formatively and summatively, and designating the final grade. Individuals who are currently employed as Para-Educators, individuals who are currently certificated to teach but who are in need of emergency certification in another area, and individuals with strong subject matter background but limited experience with educational methodology shall follow the alternate certification requirements provided herein. (4-4-13)

INFORMATION:

Certificates/authorizations described in this section may be issued under the circumstances unique to each alternate route.

1. ALTERNATIVE AUTHORIZATIONS AVAILABLE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- a. Alternative Authorization - Teacher to New Certification/Endorsement
- b. Alternative Authorization - Content Specialist
- c. Alternative Authorization - Pupil Personnel Services

2. ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO CERTIFICATION AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS

- a. Non-Traditional Route to Teacher Certification
 - i. American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE)
 - ii. Teach for America (TFA)

3. INTERIM ENDORSEMENTS AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS

- a. School Nurse
- b. Speech-Language Pathologist

1. ALTERNATIVE AUTHORIZATIONS AVAILABLE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS

a. ALTERNATIVE AUTHORIZATION – TEACHER TO NEW CERTIFICATION/ENDORSEMENT

RULE: IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (IDAPA 08, TITLE 02, CHAPTER 02)

043. ALTERNATIVE AUTHORIZATION – TEACHER TO NEW CERTIFICATION

The purpose of this alternative authorization is to allow Idaho school districts to request endorsement/certification when a professional position cannot be filled with someone who has the correct endorsement/certification. Alternative authorization in this area is valid for up to three (3) years and is nonrenewable. (5-8-09)

01. Initial Qualifications. Prior to application, a candidate must hold a bachelor's degree and a valid Idaho teacher certificate without full endorsement in the content area of need. The school district must provide supportive information attesting to the ability of the candidate to fill the position. (5-8-09)

02. Alternative Route Preparation Program (3-20-04)

a. Option I – Teacher to New Certification/Endorsement (5-8-09)

i. Candidate will work toward completion of the alternative route preparation program through a participating college/university and the employing school district. Candidate must complete a minimum of nine (9) semester credits annually to be eligible for extension of up to a total of three (3) years. (3-20-04)

ii. The participating college/university shall provide procedures to assess and credit equivalent knowledge, dispositions, and relevant life/work experiences. (3-20-04)

iii. Candidate shall meet all requirements for the endorsement/certificate as provided herein. (3-20-04)

b. Option II - National Board (endorsement only). By earning National Board certification in content specific areas teachers may gain endorsement in a corresponding subject area. (5-8-09)

c. Option III - Master's degree or higher (endorsement only). By earning a graduate degree in a content specific area, candidates may add an endorsement in that same content area to a valid certificate. (5-8-09)

d. Option IV - Testing and/or Assessment (endorsement only). Two pathways are available to some candidates, depending upon endorsement(s) already held. (5-8-09)

i. Pathway 1 - Endorsements may be added through state-approved testing and a mentoring component. The appropriate test must be successfully completed within the first year of authorization in an area closely compatible with an endorsement for which the candidate already qualifies and is experienced. Additionally requires the successful completion of a one (1)-year state-approved mentoring component. (5-8-09)

ii. Pathway 2 - Endorsements may be added through state-approved testing in an area less closely compatible with an endorsement for which the candidate already qualifies and is experienced. The appropriate test must be successfully completed within the first year of the authorization. Additionally requires the successful completion of a one (1)-year state-approved mentoring component and passing a final pedagogy assessment. (5-8-09)

INFORMATION:

The **Alternative Authorization - Teacher to New Certification/Endorsement (AA-TNC)** allows a candidate who holds a current five (5)-year, renewable Idaho certificate/credential to serve in a new area of certification/endorsement while simultaneously completing the new certification/endorsement requirements via one of four “Options.”

- 1.** The individual applicant must first hold a Bachelor’s degree **AND** a valid Idaho teaching certificate/credential.
- 2.** The **district** must complete and submit the AA-TNC application packet.
- 3.** The Professional Standards Commission’s (PSC) Authorizations Committee will review the application(s) submitted. The Committee will review only complete packets. The Committee's recommendation(s) will be forwarded to the full commission for final approval. The authorization is **valid for the school year** for which the application is submitted and approved.
- 4.** The individual will meet the "Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT)" standard of the NCLB legislation in a core content area once the appropriate Praxis II or ABCTE exam has been passed.
- 5.** The candidate must undergo a Criminal History Check (CHC), including fingerprinting, prior to entering the classroom (if not already on file for the applying school district).

1. ALTERNATIVE AUTHORIZATIONS AVAILABLE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS

b. ALTERNATIVE AUTHORIZATION - CONTENT SPECIALIST

RULE: IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (IDAPA 08, TITLE 02 CHAPTER 02)

044. ALTERNATIVE AUTHORIZATION – CONTENT SPECIALIST

The purpose of this alternative authorization is to offer an expedited route to certification for individuals who are highly and uniquely qualified in a subject area to teach in a district that has declared an emergency need for teachers in that area. Alternative authorization in this area is valid for three (3) years and is not renewable. (03-20-04)

01. Initial Qualifications (3-20-04)

- a.** A candidate must hold a Bachelor's degree or have completed all of the requirements of a Bachelor's degree except the student teaching or practicum portion. (4-4-13)
- b.** The hiring district shall ensure the candidate is highly and uniquely qualified to teach in the area of identified need through demonstrated content knowledge. This may be accomplished through a combination of employment experience and education.

02. Alternative Route Preparation Program – College/University Preparation or Other State Board Approved Certification Program. (3-20-04)

- a.** During the first year of the authorization, a consortium composed of a designee from the college/university to be attended or other state board approved certification program, a representative from the school district, and the candidate shall determine preparation needed to meet the Idaho Standards for Initial Certification of Professional School Personnel. This preparation must include mentoring and minimum of one (1) classroom observation per month while teaching under the alternative authorization. (03-20-04)
- b.** The candidate must complete eight (8) to sixteen (16) weeks of accelerated study in education pedagogy prior to the end of the first year of the authorization. (03-20-04)
- c.** Candidate will work toward completion of the alternative route preparation program through a participating college/university or other state board approved certification program and the employing school district. A teacher must attend, participate in, and successfully complete an individualized alternative route preparation program as one (1) of the conditions to receive a recommendation for standard certification. (03-20-04)
- d.** The participating college/university or other state board approved certification program shall provide procedures to assess and credit equivalent knowledge, dispositions, and relevant life/work experiences. (03-20-04)
- e.** Prior to entering the classroom, the candidate shall meet or exceed the state qualifying score on appropriate, state-approved content, pedagogy, or performance assessment. (03-20-04)

INFORMATION:

The **Alternative Authorization - Content Specialist (AA-CS)** allows a candidate who does **NOT** hold a current five (5)-year, renewable Idaho certificate/credential, but who has a strong content background and limited educational pedagogy, to fill an area of need for district/charter that has declared an emergency need for a candidate in that area of certification/endorsement. While on the AA-CS, the candidate successfully completes an individualized certification program in the area of certification/endorsement for which the AA-CS is requested.

- 1.** The candidate for whom the authorization is being requested must first hold a Bachelor's degree or, for candidates currently in a Bachelor's program, have completed all of the requirements of a Bachelor's degree except the student teaching or practicum portion.
- 2.** The candidate must pass a state-approved content area assessment (e.g. PRAXIS) in the applicable area of certification/endorsement to be eligible for the AA-CS.
- 3.** The **district** must complete and submit the AA-CS application packet.
- 4.** The Professional Standards Commission's (PSC) Authorizations Committee will review the application(s) submitted. The Committee will review only complete packets. The Committee's recommendation(s) will be forwarded to the full commission for final approval. The authorization is **valid for the school year** for which the application is submitted and approved.
- 5.** The individual will meet the "Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT)" standard of the NCLB legislation in a core content area once the applicable Praxis II or ABCTE exam has been passed.
- 6.** The candidate must undergo a Criminal History Check (CHC), including fingerprinting, prior to entering the classroom (if not already on file for the applying school district).

1. ALTERNATIVE AUTHORIZATIONS AVAILABLE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS

c. ALTERNATIVE AUTHORIZATION - PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES

RULE: IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (IDAPA 08, TITLE 02, CHAPTER 02)

047.ALTERNATIVE AUTHORIZATION - PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES.

The purpose of this alternative authorization is to allow Idaho school districts to request endorsement/certification when a position requiring the Pupil Personnel Services certificate cannot be filled with someone who has the correct endorsement/certification. The exception to this rule is the Interim School Nurse endorsement and the Interim Speech Language Pathologist endorsement. The requirements for these endorsements are already defined in Subsections 027.04 and 027.08 respectively, of these rules. (4-11-15)

01. Term of Validity. Alternative authorization in this area is valid for three (3) years and will be reviewed annually and is nonrenewable. (4-2-08)

02. Initial Qualifications.

a. Prior to application, a candidate must hold a Master's degree AND hold a current Idaho license from the Bureau of Occupational Licenses in the area of desired certification; and (4-2-08)

b. The employing school district must provide supportive information attesting to the ability of the candidate to fill the position. (4-2-08)

03. Alternative Route Preparation Program (04-2-08)

a. The candidate must work toward completion of the alternative route preparation program through a participating college/university and the employing school district. (4-2-08)

b. The candidate must complete a minimum of nine (9) semester credits annually to be eligible for extension of up to a total of three (3) years. (4-2-08)

c. The participating college/university or the State Department of Education will provide procedures to assess and credit equivalent knowledge, dispositions, and relevant life/work experiences. (4-2-08)

d. The candidate must meet all requirements for the endorsement/certificate as provided herein. (4-2-08)

INFORMATION:

The **Alternative Authorization – Pupil Personnel Services (AA-PPS)** allows a candidate who does **NOT** hold a current five (5)-year, renewable Idaho certificate/credential to fill an identified area of need for an Idaho school district/charter that requires the Pupil Personnel Services certificate.

* The exception to this rule is the **Interim Endorsement - School Nurse** and the **Interim Endorsement - Speech Language Pathologist**. For more information, see Section 3 of this document.

- 1.** The candidate for whom the authorization is being requested must first hold a Master's degree **AND** a current license from the Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses in the area of desired endorsement.
- 2.** The **district** must complete and submit the Alternative Authorization – Pupil Personnel Services application packet.
- 3.** The Professional Standards Commission's (PSC) Authorizations Committee will review the application(s) submitted. The Committee will review only complete packets. The Committee's recommendation(s) will be forwarded to the full commission for final approval. The authorization is **valid for the school year** for which the application is submitted and approved.
- 4.** The candidate must undergo a Criminal History Check (CHC), including fingerprinting, prior to entering the classroom (if not already on file for the applying school district).

2. ALTERNATIVE ROUTES AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS

a. Non-Traditional Route to Teacher Certification - American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE)

RULE: IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (IDAPA 08, TITLE 02, CHAPTER 02)

045. NON-TRADITIONAL ROUTE TO TEACHER CERTIFICATION.

An individual may acquire interim certification as found in Section 015 of these rules through an approved non-traditional route certification program. (3-20-14)

01. Approval of the Program. The State Board of Education must approve any non-traditional route to teacher certification. The program must include, at a minimum, the following components: (3-20-14)

- a. Preassessment of teaching and content knowledge; (4-6-05)
- b. An academic advisor with knowledge of the prescribed instruction area; and (4-6-05)
- c. Exams of pedagogy and content knowledge. (4-6-05)

02. Eligibility. Individuals who possess a bachelor's degree or higher from an institution of higher education may utilize this non-traditional route to an interim Idaho Teacher Certification. (3-20-14)

03. Requirements for Completion. To complete this non-traditional route, the individual must: (3-20-14)

- a. Complete a Board approved program; (4-6-05)
- b. Pass the Board approved pedagogy and content knowledge exams; and (4-6-05)
- c. Complete the Idaho Department of Education Criminal History Check. (4-6-05)

04. Interim Certificate. Upon completion of the certification process described herein, the individual will be awarded an interim certificate from the State Department of Education's Bureau of Certification and Professional Standards. The term of the interim certification shall be three (3) years. During the term of the interim certificate, teaching by the individual must be done in conjunction with a two (2) year a teacher mentoring program approved by the Board. The individual must complete the mentoring program during the term of the interim certificate. In the case where teachers start their mentoring program in the third year of their interim certificate, they must apply to the State Department of Education Teacher Certification Department for a waiver to complete the final year of their mentoring program for full certification. All laws and rules governing the fully certificated teachers with respect to conduct, discipline and professional standards shall apply to individuals teaching under an interim certificate. (3-20-14)

05. Interim Certificate Not Renewable. Interim certification hereunder is only available on a one (1) time basis per individual. It will be the responsibility of the individual to obtain full Idaho Teacher Certification during the three (3) year interim certification term. (4-6-05)

06. Types of Certificates and Endorsements. The non-traditional route may be used for first-time certification, subsequent certificates, and additional endorsements. (3-20-14)

INFORMATION:

At this time, American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) is the only computer-based alternate route to teacher certification. ABCTE is designed as an avenue to enter the teaching profession or to add additional certificates or endorsements to an existing Idaho teaching credential.

For further information regarding ABCTE, refer to the ABCTE website at www.abcte.org

1. The candidate **MUST** hold a Bachelor's degree prior to enrolling in ABCTE.
2. The candidate completes the ABCTE assessment process through ABCTE.
3. Upon successful completion of the ABCTE assessment process, the candidate is issued the ABCTE "Passport to Teaching" certificate.

NOTE: It is highly recommended to provide potential hiring districts with a copy of the ABCTE "Passport to Teaching Certificate" and secure a position in the content area and grade level of certification **PRIOR** to application for an Idaho three (3)-year interim certificate. A candidate can assure the district that the state will have direct reciprocity with the ABCTE "Passport to Teaching" certificate and will issue the three (3)-year interim certificate upon application and clearance of a Criminal History Check (CHC).

4. The candidate submits an application for an Idaho three (3)-year interim certificate/credential to the State Department of Education.
 - a. Upon clearance of a Criminal History Check (CHC), the applicant will then be issued a three (3)-year interim certificate/credential allowing time to meet the Idaho standards to qualify for a clear five (5)-year, renewable certificate/credential.
5. The candidate teaches in the content area and grade level of certification as a Teacher of Record and simultaneously completes a required mentoring program and any additional requirements as applicable.
 - a. Requirements for the mentoring program
 - b. The candidate will meet the Idaho Comprehensive Literacy requirement as provided in statute, if applicable.
 - c. The candidate will meet the Mathematical Thinking for Instruction requirement as provided in statute, if applicable.
6. Upon successful completion of the mentoring program, the candidate can apply for the clear five (5)-year, renewable certificate/credential subsequent to meeting State Board of Education (SBOE) and Idaho statutory requirements as outlined above.

2. ALTERNATIVE ROUTES AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS

a. Non-Traditional Route to Teacher Certification - Teach for America (TFA)

RULE: IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (IDAPA 08, TITLE 02, CHAPTER 02)

045. NON-TRADITIONAL ROUTE TO TEACHER CERTIFICATION.

An individual may acquire interim certification as found in Section 015 of these rules through an approved non-traditional route certification program. (3-20-14)

01. Approval of the Program. The State Board of Education must approve any non-traditional route to teacher certification. The program must include, at a minimum, the following components: (3-20-14)

- a.** Preassessment of teaching and content knowledge; (4-6-05)
- b.** An academic advisor with knowledge of the prescribed instruction area; and (4-6-05)
- c.** Exams of pedagogy and content knowledge. (4-6-05)

02. Eligibility. Individuals who possess a bachelor's degree or higher from an institution of higher education may utilize this non-traditional route to an interim Idaho Teacher Certification. (3-20-14)

03. Requirements for Completion. To complete this non-traditional route, the individual must: (3-20-14)

- a.** Complete a Board approved program; (4-6-05)
- b.** Pass the Board approved pedagogy and content knowledge exams; and (4-6-05)
- c.** Complete the Idaho Department of Education Criminal History Check. (4-6-05)

04. Interim Certificate. Upon completion of the certification process described herein, the individual will be awarded an interim certificate from the State Department of Education's Bureau of Certification and Professional Standards. The term of the interim certification shall be three (3) years. During the term of the interim certificate, teaching by the individual must be done in conjunction with a two (2) year a teacher mentoring program approved by the Board. The individual must complete the mentoring program during the term of the interim certificate. In the case where teachers start their mentoring program in the third year of their interim certificate, they must apply to the State Department of Education Teacher Certification Department for a waiver to complete the final year of their mentoring program for full certification. All laws and rules governing the fully certificated teachers with respect to conduct, discipline and professional standards shall apply to individuals teaching under an interim certificate. (3-20-14)

05. Interim Certificate Not Renewable. Interim certification hereunder is only available on a one (1) time basis per individual. It will be the responsibility of the individual to obtain full Idaho Teacher Certification during the three (3) year interim certification term. (4-6-05)

06. Types of Certificates and Endorsements. The non-traditional route may be used for first-time certification, subsequent certificates, and additional endorsements. (3-20-14)

INFORMATION:

Teach for America (TFA) is designed as an avenue to enter the teaching profession. TFA-Idaho corps members are regionally prepared to teach in Idaho and commit to TFA to teach for two years.

For further information regarding TFA, refer to the TFA website at <https://www.teachforamerica.org/>

- 1.** The candidate **MUST** hold a Bachelor's degree prior to enrolling in TFA.
- 2.** The candidate completes the TFA Training Institute and passes the applicable PRAXIS II content area exam(s).
- 3.** Upon successful completion of the TFA Training Institute and passage of the applicable PRAXIS II content area exam(s), the candidate is issued a TFA-Idaho Verification of Completion letter.
- 4.** The candidate submits an application for an Idaho three (3)-year interim certificate/credential to the State Department of Education.
 - a.** Upon clearance of a Criminal History Check (CHC), the applicant will then be issued a three (3)-year interim certificate/credential allowing time to meet the Idaho standards to qualify for a clear five (5)-year, renewable certificate/credential.
- 5.** The candidate teaches in the content area and grade level of certification as a Teacher of Record and simultaneously completes a required mentoring program and any additional requirements as applicable.
 - a.** Requirements for the mentoring program
 - b.** The candidate will meet all additional requirements as determined by TFA-Idaho, if applicable.
 - c.** The candidate will meet the Idaho Comprehensive Literacy requirement as provided in statute, if applicable.
 - d.** The candidate will meet the Mathematical Thinking for Instruction requirement as provided in statute, if applicable.
- 6.** Upon successful completion of the mentoring program, the candidate can apply for the clear five (5)-year, renewable certificate/credential subsequent to meeting State Board of Education (SBOE) and Idaho statutory requirements as outlined above.

3. INTERIM ENDORSEMENTS AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS

a. School Nurse

RULE: IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (IDAPA 08, TITLE 02, CHAPTER 02)

027.04. Interim Endorsement - School Nurse.

This certificate will be granted for those who do not meet the educational and/or experience requirements but who hold a valid professional nursing (RN) license in Idaho. An Interim Certificate - will be issued for three (3) years while the applicant is meeting the educational requirements, and it is not renewable. (3-29-10)

The purpose of this interim endorsement is to allow the professional nurse up to three years to complete the School Nurse endorsement requirements. The candidate must have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in Nursing and have a plan in place to complete the Pupil Personnel Services Certificate with the School Nurse endorsement requirements during the three-year interim period.

b. Speech-Language Pathologist

RULE: IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (IDAPA 08, TITLE 02, CHAPTER 02)

027.08. Interim Endorsement – Speech-Language Pathologist.

This certificate will be granted for those who do not meet the educational requirements but who hold a bachelor's degree in Speech language pathology and are pursuing a master's degree in order to obtain the pupil personnel services certificate endorsed in speech language pathology. An Interim Certificate will be issued for three (3) years while the applicant is meeting the educational requirements, and it is not renewable. (3-29-10)

The purpose of this interim endorsement is to allow the professional Speech-Language Pathologist up to three years to complete the Speech-Language Pathologist endorsement requirements. The candidate must have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in Speech-Language Pathology and have a plan in place to complete the Pupil Personnel Services Certificate with the Speech-Language Pathologist endorsement requirements during the three-year interim period.