

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS UNDER THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT

Definitions

Core academic subjects include English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography. (20 USC 7801)

Hard-to-staff setting means a middle or high school classroom eligible for the federal Small Rural Schools Achievement Program, a middle or high school special education classroom, or a middle or high school alternative education program as specified in Education Code 44865, including home teaching, hospital classes, necessary small high schools, continuation schools, alternative schools, opportunity schools, juvenile court schools, county community schools, and district community day schools. (5 CCR 6100)

High Objective Uniform State Standard Evaluation (HOUSSE) is a method of determining a teacher's subject matter competence using forms developed by the California Department of Education (CDE). HOUSSE Part 1 consists of a summation of the teacher's years of experience, coursework, professional development, and service to the profession. HOUSSE Part 2, to be conducted only if Part 1 does not indicate subject matter competency, consists of direct observation and portfolio assessment and, if necessary, completion of the Peer Assistance and Review Program for Teachers or other individualized professional development plan. (5 CCR 6104)

Level 1 professional development means training that will provide a teacher with the requisite understanding of each set of state content standards. *Level 2 professional development* means training that will provide a teacher with more in-depth understanding of the content standards than provided in a Level 1 professional development program. The trainings shall be consistent with state-adopted academic content standards, curriculum frameworks, and adopted texts and shall incorporate the assessment of subject matter competency as outlined in the CDE's document California's Subject Matter Verification Process for Middle and High School Level Teachers in Special Settings. For each type of training, at least 36 hours in the core subject for which the teacher is being certified is required to substantively address the subject matter content. (5 CCR 6100, 6105)

Teacher new to the profession is a teacher who either graduated from an accredited institution of higher education and received a credential, or was enrolled in or had completed an approved intern program, on or after July 1, 2002. (5 CCR 6100)

Teacher not new to the profession is a teacher who either graduated from an accredited institution of higher education and received a credential, or was enrolled in or had completed an approved intern program, before July 1, 2002. (5 CCR 6100)

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Teacher Qualifications

To meet the teacher qualification requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), a teacher of a core academic subject shall meet all of the following conditions: (20 USC 6319, 7801; 34 CFR 200.55, 200.56, 300.18; 5 CCR 6101, 6104, 6105, 6110)

1. Hold a bachelor's degree
2. Hold a full credential or be currently enrolled in an approved intern program for less than three years

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

(cf. 4112.21 - Interns)

3. Demonstrate subject matter competency in accordance with the applicable requirements below

A teacher who holds a supplementary authorization or is employed on a local teaching assignment shall meet the teacher qualification requirements of NCLB if he/she holds a California teaching credential and has demonstrated subject matter competency for the grade span and subject matter taught. (5 CCR 6116)

A teacher shall not meet the teacher qualification requirements of NCLB if he/she is teaching with a short-term staff permit, a provisional internship permit, or a state or local waiver for the grade or subject taught. (5 CCR 6115, 80021, 80021.1)

Demonstration of Subject Matter Competency

Subject matter competency shall be demonstrated in accordance with the following requirements based on the grade levels taught and the teacher's length of time in the profession:

1. An *elementary teacher who is new to the profession* shall pass a validated statewide subject matter examination certified by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). (5 CCR 6102)
2. An *elementary teacher who is not new to the profession* shall complete one of the following: (5 CCR 6103-6104)
 - a. A validated statewide subject matter examination that the CTC has utilized to determine subject matter competency for credentialing purposes

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- b. The HOUSSE, as defined above, to determine the teacher's subject matter competency in each of the core academic subjects taught by the teacher
3. *A middle or high school teacher who is new to the profession* shall pass or complete one of the following for every core academic subject currently assigned: (5 CCR 6111)
 - a. A validated statewide subject matter examination certified by the CTC
 - b. University subject matter program approved by the CTC
 - c. Undergraduate major in the subject taught
 - d. Graduate degree in the subject taught
 - e. Coursework equivalent to the undergraduate major
4. *A middle or high school teacher who is not new to the profession* shall pass or complete one of the following for every core subject assigned: (5 CCR 6112)
 - a. A validated statewide subject matter examination that the CTC has utilized to determine subject matter competency for credentialing purposes
 - b. University subject matter program approved by the CTC
 - c. Undergraduate major in the subject taught
 - d. Graduate degree in the subject taught
 - e. Coursework equivalent to the undergraduate major
 - f. Advanced certification or credential, such as certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
 - g. The HOUSSE, as defined above, to determine the teacher's subject matter competency in each of the core academic subjects taught by the teacher
5. *A middle or high school teacher in a hard-to-staff setting*, as defined above, shall complete professional development for the subject matter verification process within three years of the date of assignment to such a setting. (5 CCR 6100, 6105)

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- a. If the teacher has fewer than 20 total or 10 upper division nonremedial college-level semester units, or equivalent quarter units, in a core academic subject, he/she shall complete both Level 1 and Level 2 professional development courses as defined above.
 - b. If the teacher has fewer than 32 semester nonremedial college-level units, but at least 20 total or 10 upper division nonremedial semester units, or the equivalent quarter units, in a core academic subject, he/she shall complete a Level 2 professional development course.
6. An *elementary, middle, or high school special education teacher teaching multiple subjects* exclusively to students with disabilities may either: (20 USC 1401; 34 CFR 300.18; 5 CCR 6111)
- a. Meet the requirements above for teachers who are new or not new to the profession, as applicable
 - b. In the case of a new special education teacher who has demonstrated subject matter competency in mathematics, language arts, or science, demonstrate competency in the other core academic subject(s) he/she teaches through the HOUSSE no later than two years after the date of employment

Satisfaction of Requirements Outside District

A teacher who has been determined by another district in California to have met the teacher qualification requirements for the grade level and/or subject taught shall not be required to demonstrate again that he/she meets those requirements. (5 CCR 6120)

A teacher who has been determined to meet subject matter competency requirements outside of California shall be considered to have met those requirements for the particular subject and/or grade span in California. The date of issuance of a valid out-of-state credential shall be used to identify a teacher as new or not new to the profession. (5 CCR 6125)

A teacher prepared in a country other than the United States shall be considered to have met NCLB teaching requirements if he/she: (5 CCR 6126)

1. Holds a degree from a foreign college or university that is at least equivalent to a bachelor's degree offered by an American institution of higher education
2. Has completed a teacher preparation program that meets CTC requirements for out-of-country trained teachers

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3. Demonstrates subject matter competency for the grade span and subjects taught through the same or equivalent processes and methods required of California teachers
4. Holds a California teaching credential

Certification of Compliance

All teachers teaching core academic subjects shall complete and sign a certificate of compliance with NCLB requirements and attach appropriate documentation. The Superintendent or designee shall verify the information and retain the signed original copy.

The principal of each school receiving Title I funds shall annually attest in writing as to whether the school is in compliance with NCLB requirements related to teacher qualifications. Copies of the attestation shall be maintained at the school and at the district office and shall be available to any member of the public upon request. (20 USC 6319)

District Plan for Highly Qualified Teachers

Within the Title I local educational agency plan, the Superintendent or designee shall develop a plan for ensuring that all teachers of core academic subjects will meet NCLB requirements in accordance with law. As part of this plan, the Superintendent or designee shall provide high-quality professional development designed to enable teachers to meet NCLB requirements. (20 USC 6312, 6319)

Parental Notifications

At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the parents/guardians of each student attending a school receiving Title I funds that they may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher including, but not limited to: (20 USC 6311)

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree
4. Whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications

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In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall provide timely notice to individual parents/guardians of students attending a Title I school whenever their child has been assigned to or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher of a core academic subject who does not meet NCLB teacher qualification requirements. (20 USC 6311; 34 CFR 200.61)

The Superintendent or designee shall notify teachers, as appropriate, prior to distributing the above notice to parents/guardians.

The notice and information provided to parents/guardians shall be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, be provided in a language that the parents/guardians can understand. (20 USC 6311)