

What is required for a person to become certified to teach in Michigan?

Michigan Applicants (*teacher preparation program was completed at a Michigan college/university*)

In order to obtain a **Provisional (initial) teaching certificate**, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

1. Has earned at least a bachelor's degree,
2. Has completed a specific teacher education program at an approved teacher preparation institution. Michigan minimum standards require:
 - Completion of an approved program of general or liberal education, including English, literature, humanities, social sciences, mathematics, natural or physical sciences, and the arts.
 - Completion of an approved program in the substantive field(s) to be taught.
 - Completion of at least 20 semester hours in professional education courses (including at least six semester hours of directed teaching).

For a Secondary Provisional Certificate

- Completion of a major of not less than 30 semester hours or a group major of not less than 36 semester hours in a specific substantive field, and completion of 3 semester hours in the teaching of reading.

For an Elementary Provisional Certificate

- Completion of a major of not less than 30 semester hours or a group major of 36 semester hours and a planned program minor of 20 semester hours in other substantive fields deemed appropriated to elementary education; **OR** three minors of at least 20 semester hours each (two of which shall be in substantive fields and the third a minor of at least 20 semester hours in content areas appropriate to elementary education). Applicants for the elementary Provisional certificate must also complete six semester hours in the teaching of reading.

(Candidates for teacher certification must seek specific advice from the Michigan college/university where they are completing their teacher preparation program.)

3. Has completed a course in first aid training that includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for both children and adults. This course may be completed through the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, or from a comparable organization approved by the Michigan Department of Education.
4. Has passed the appropriate Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) examinations.
5. Has paid the appropriate application evaluation fee.

Out-of-State Applicants (*teacher preparation program was completed at a college/university outside the State of Michigan*)

A Michigan Provisional certificate may also be issued on an equivalency basis when a candidate meets all of the following criteria:

1. Has earned at least a bachelor's degree.
2. Has completed an approved elementary or secondary teacher preparation program at a college/university outside the State of Michigan.
3. Has completed a course in first aid training that includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for both children and adults. This course may be completed through the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, or from a comparable organization approved by the Michigan Department of Education.
4. Has passed the appropriate MTTC examinations.
5. Has not previously held a Michigan teaching certificate.
6. Has paid the appropriate application evaluation fee.

A **Temporary Teacher Employment Authorization (T2EA)** may be issued to an individual who holds a valid out-of-state teaching certificate and meets all of the above requirements, except for passing the MTTC examinations. The T2EA is valid for one calendar year and is nonrenewable. During the one-year validity period of the T2EA, the individual must pass the appropriate MTTC examinations in order to qualify for the Provisional teaching certificate.

Section 380.1531(6) of the *Revised School Code* authorizes the issuance of a Michigan Professional Education teaching certificate to an out-of-state applicant who has never held a Michigan Provisional teaching certificate without requiring the person to pass the MTTC if the applicant meets all of the following requirements:

1. Holds a valid out-of-state teaching certificate.
2. Has earned, after the issuance of his/her initial certification in another state, at least 18 semester hours in a planned course of study at an approved teacher preparation institution; **OR** has earned, at any time, an approved master's or higher degree.
3. Has taught successfully, after the issuance of his/her initial certification in another state, for at least three years in a position for which the person's out-of-state teaching certificate is valid.
4. Has completed three semester hours in the teaching of reading if secondary certified; has completed six semester hours in the teaching of reading if elementary certified.
5. Has paid the appropriate application evaluation fee.

How can an individual without appropriate certification teach under a permit?

According to Michigan law, all persons providing instruction at the elementary and secondary levels must hold a certificate, permit, or vocational authorization valid for the teaching assignment.

This means that public schools, public school academies, and nonpublic schools are required to first seek a teacher who holds a valid Michigan teaching certificate appropriate for the assignment. However, if a school district or school cannot find an appropriately certified teacher for a regular or substitute teaching assignment, it may apply for one or more types of teacher permits addressed in the *Administrative Rules Governing the Certification of Michigan Teachers*. Teacher permits are issued to local and intermediate school districts, public school academies, and nonpublic schools only. They are not issued to individuals.

There are three types of permits issued in Michigan: the substitute permit, the full-year permit, and the emergency permit. In addition, Section 1233(b) of PA 289 of 1995 established standards for employment of noncertified, nonendorsed teachers under certain conditions. However, a permit must be obtained by the district/school for compliance.

The Substitute Permit

This permit allows a person who does not hold a valid Michigan teaching certificate to be employed as a substitute teacher on a day-to-day basis when the regular teacher is temporarily absent. The substitute permit is **not valid for a regular or extended teaching assignment, which is defined as an assignment to the same classroom for more than 90 calendar days (approximately three months).**

To qualify for a substitute permit, an individual must have completed at least 90 semester hours of satisfactory credit consolidated at a regionally accredited four-year college or university. In accordance with existing policy, college credit is defined as satisfactory if it is a “C” (2.0) cumulative grade point average or better. Also, these credits must have been **completed at or transferred to a four-year, regionally accredited college or university; they will not be accepted directly from a community college.** The substitute permit is valid until August 31 of the school year in which the permit is issued.

The substitute permit may be renewed by the district/school each school year.

The Full-Year Permit

This permit allows a person who does not hold a valid Michigan teaching certificate, or a certificate that is appropriate for the assignment, **to be employed in a regular or extended teaching assignment (defined as an assignment to the same classroom for more than 90 calendar days).** The full-year permit is valid for teaching in the approved grade(s) and/or subject(s) until June 30 of the school year for which the permit is issued.

To qualify for this type of permit, the following requirements must be met:

- The individual must hold a bachelor’s or higher degree from an approved regionally or nationally accredited teacher preparation institution.

- If the assignment is in a core academic subject, the individual must have completed an academic major in the subject area or must have passed the appropriate MTTC content area test. **(For assignments in self-contained special education classrooms, the individual must have completed an approved elementary education program or must have passed the elementary education content area test.)**
- If the assignment is in a non-core area, the only credit requirement is a bachelor's or higher degree from an accredited teacher preparation institution.

When applying for the initial full-year permit, the district/school must verify that the position vacancy notice was posted at the college and university placement offices and advertised in the mass media and that an appropriately certified teacher was not available for the assignment.

A full-year permit may only be renewed if the individual has completed six additional semester hours of credit toward appropriate certification, and the individual has been assigned a mentor teacher. **The full-year permit may be renewed for a maximum of two years without re-posting the position if the renewal requirements are met.**

Individuals employed under a full-year permit **in both core and non-core subject areas** must pass the MTTC basic skills test and the appropriate subject area test(s) and be appropriately certified within three years after employment under the full-year permit.

The Emergency Permit

This permit is issued only in situations that qualify as an “emergency” **because the lack of a teacher will deprive children of an education.** The emergency permit allows a district/school to employ a person who does not hold a valid Michigan teaching certificate, or does not meet the requirements for a full-year permit, in a regular or extended teaching assignment. This permit is valid for teaching in the approved grade(s) and/or subject(s) until June 30 of the school year in which the permit is issued. **Emergency permits will not be approved for core academic subject areas.**

To qualify for this type of permit, the following requirements must be met:

- The individual must hold a bachelor's or higher degree **in the content to be taught** from a regionally or nationally accredited college or university; **OR** the individual must be currently enrollment in an approved teacher preparation program and have completed at least 90 semester hours of credit toward appropriate certification.
- The district/school must verify that it has posted the position vacancy notice at college and university placement offices and in the appropriate mass media and that an appropriately certified teacher, or an individual who meets full-year permit requirements, is not available for the assignment.

An emergency permit may only be renewed if the district/school provides sufficient evidence that the emergency situation continues to exist. In addition, the individual must be currently enrolled in an approved teacher preparation program and must have completed six additional

semester hours of credit toward appropriate certification. The individual must also be assigned a mentor teacher.

Permits Issued Under Section 1233(b) of PA 289 or 1995

Section 1233(b) of Public Act 289 (1995) authorizes the employment of a noncertificated, nonendorsed teacher **for grades 9-12** in the subject areas of computer science, foreign language, mathematics, biology, chemistry, engineering, physics, and robotics. However, the district/school must obtain a permit for compliance.

To qualify for a permit under the provisions of Section 1233(b), the following requirements must be met:

- The individual must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited postsecondary institution.
- The individual must have a major or a graduate degree in the field of specialization in which he or she will teach.
- The individual must have, in the five-year period immediately preceding the date of hire, not less than two years of occupational experience in the field of specialization in which he or she will teach. **Those who will teach in the area of foreign language are exempt from this requirement.**
- The employing district/school must verify that it has posted and advertised the position and has been unable to find an appropriately certified teacher for the assignment.

The above requirements may be waived if the following conditions are met:

- The noncertificated, nonendorsed teacher is annually and continually enrolled and completing credit in an approved teacher preparation program leading to appropriate certification or endorsement.
- The noncertificated, nonendorsed teacher has a planned program leading to teacher certification or endorsement on file with the employing district/school, his or her teacher preparation institution, and the Department of Education.

A permit issued under the provisions of Section 1233(b) may only be renewed if the individual is continually enrolled and completing credit toward appropriate certification and has passed both the MTTC basic skills and subject area examinations (if a subject area examination exists) in the field of specialization in which he or she will be teaching.

For additional information regarding teacher preparation and certification, contact Ms. Krista Ried at 517-373-6791 or riedk@michigan.gov. For information regarding permits, contact Ms. Karen Taylor at 517-373-6895 or taylork8@michigan.gov. For information regarding the MTTC, contact Dr. Steven Stegink at 517-241-4945, or visit the MTTC website at www.mttc.nesinc.com.