



WHAT EVERY MICHIGAN TEACHER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ESEA/NCLB/ESSA & HIGHLY QUALIFIED

NCLB: The No Child Left Behind Act (2001), which was the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), was signed into law by President Bush on January 8, 2002. NCLB established the requirement for all teachers of core academic subject areas be Highly Qualified (HQ). **While the 2015 reauthorization (ESSA) removed references to HQ, Michigan State Board of Education maintains a *Definition for Identifying Highly Qualified Teachers (2007)* and it remains in effect until further notice.**

CORE ACADEMIC SUBJECT AREAS AS DEFINED BY NCLB: English, Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Foreign Languages, Civics and Government, Economics, Arts, History, and Geography. (The arts in Michigan include visual arts, vocal and instrumental music.)

"HIGHLY QUALIFIED" MEANS: The teacher holds at least a bachelor's degree and is certified, endorsed, or authorized to teach the subject, and has **one** of the following:

- Major in the content/subject (or equivalent of 30 semester credit hours); or
- Passed a rigorous state test in the content/subject; or
- Completed a state approved High Objective Uniform State Standards of Evaluation (HOUSSE); or
- Holds National Board Certification in the content/subject.

HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS IN MICHIGAN: All elementary certified teachers who have taken and passed the Elementary Education #83 or #103 Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) are considered Highly Qualified for grades K-5 (all subjects) and grades 6-8 (self-contained settings only).

All middle (6-8) and secondary (9-12) certified teachers who have taken and passed the **MTTC** for the endorsements listed on their certificates are considered Highly Qualified in those areas.

All middle and secondary certified teachers who hold a **major** in their endorsement area are considered Highly Qualified for that content/subject.

NOTE: For purposes of NCLB the core subject area "science" includes biology, chemistry, physical science, physics, and earth/space science. Under **Michigan law** only the broad science endorsement (DX/DI) is appropriate for teaching general science classes. This is also true for the broad social studies (CX/RX) endorsements. E.g., a teacher holding only the Biology (DA) endorsement cannot be assigned to teach an integrated science class.

HOW TO DEMONSTRATE YOU ARE HIGHLY QUALIFIED: Teachers may demonstrate that they are Highly Qualified by one of the methods listed under "Highly Qualified" above. For those who choose to use a HOUSSE option, the applicable information is available on the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) website in the State Board of Education approved document "Michigan's Definition for Identifying Highly Qualified Teachers." The website address is: www.michigan.gov/mde-hq. Additional Highly Qualified teacher guidance can also be found here.

MTTC: This test alone does not add an endorsement to a Michigan teaching certificate. In order to add an endorsement, a teacher must complete a state-approved endorsement program, including coursework.

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