

# Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate

## Facts-At-A-Glance:

- The Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate became available January 1, 2017
- Valid for up to 5 years and recognizes completion of [an approved Teacher Leader program](#) or achieving [National Board certification](#) through the [National Board for Professional Teaching Standards](#)
- Recognizes highly effective annual evaluation ratings\*
- Intended to be an indication of an educator's advanced skills and training in master teaching and/or teacher leadership
- Can be applied for at any time after receiving the Professional Teaching Certificate (or even after the Professional certificate's expiration) as long as the requirements have been met
- Education-related professional learning is not required for the initial Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate, but is required for all subsequent [renewals](#)
- School districts approach assignments and weigh benefits associated with the certificate differently; therefore, we encourage educators to talk with their school and district leaders about the district's approach

## Requirements:

1. A Professional Teaching Certificate
2. Completion of an [approved Michigan Teacher Leader program](#) or certification through the [National Board for Professional Teaching Standards](#)
3. Teacher Leader or National Board designation must be noted on the certificate prior to submitting application for an Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate
4. Highly effective ratings for 3 out of the 5 most recent end-of-school-year annual evaluations under [MCL 380.1249](#)\*
5. No ineffective ratings within the 5 most recent end-of-school-year annual evaluations under [MCL 380.1249](#)\*

\*For additional information on **educator evaluations and ratings**, please visit the [educator evaluations website](#) or email questions to [MDE-EdEvals@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-EdEvals@Michigan.gov).

## Application for Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate

- It is also important to [verify that the appropriate effectiveness ratings](#) were imported from the Registry of Education Personnel (REP), the database the schools use to report educator effectiveness ratings.
- Questions regarding the ratings that are viewable (or not viewable) in an individual's [Michigan Online Educator Certification System \(MOECS\)](#) account should be directed to the employing school or school district.
- Once the requirements for the Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate have been met, application is made through MOECS.

## Additional Information

### **Costs associated with obtaining an Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate**

The National Board Teaching Certificate Programs and Teacher Leader programs are fee-based programs. Additionally, Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate has a state-issued application fee of \$210 and five-year renewal fees of \$160.

### **Permanent, Life or Continuing Certificate Holders**

Holders of these [certificates types](#) may select to obtain the Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate. However, unlike the Permanent, Life or Continuing certificates, this certificate requires criteria for renewal every five years. Obtaining this certificate will put the holder on the renewal track requiring 150 professional learning hours every five years.

### **Preschool or Nonpublic School Teacher Evaluations**

Michigan's educator evaluation law (MCL 380.1249) requires an evaluation for "an individual who has a valid Michigan teaching certificate or authorization...who is employed, or contracted for, by a school district, intermediate school district or public school academy; and who is assigned... to deliver direct instruction to pupils in any of grades K to 12 as a teacher of record." Such an individual must receive an evaluation and be rated as described above to meet the eligibility requirement to apply for the Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate.

In order to enable teachers who are not required to be evaluated under MCL 380.1249 to qualify for the Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate, employers (including nonpublic schools and early childhood settings) may opt-in to the requirements of educator evaluation law to provide annual year-end evaluation labels to all certificate holders. If an employer does not opt-in to the requirements of MCL 380.1249 for teachers who do not fall under this law, those teachers will not be able to meet the eligibility requirements to apply for the Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate and will need to continue to renew their professional certificate.

### **Multiple Ratings in a Single Year**

The legal language for progressing to an Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate states that (in addition to other criteria) an individual must be "...rated as highly effective ...for 3 out of the 5 most recent school years [and]...has not been rated ineffective ...within the 5 most recent school years." An educator will not be able to progress to the Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate if he/she has an ineffective rating. Put simply, the ratings default to the lower rating.

### **National Board Certification**

Additional information regarding National Board Certification and how it is recognized in Michigan is available in this [guidance document](#).