

Out-of-State Applicants

Michigan has signed an Interstate Compact Agreement (ICA) with every state agreeing to accept out-of-state teacher preparation programs and teaching certificates on a reciprocal basis for initial certification. However, the terms of the agreement address both traditional teacher preparation programs and alternative route teacher certification programs and each certificate and/or program must be evaluated under the terms of this agreement.

Out-of-state certification programs and credentials may differ from Michigan programs and credentials; however, under the ICA, the Department attempts to match out-of-state certificates, grade levels and content endorsements, as closely as possible.

To determine reciprocity under the ICA, an evaluation must be completed. For this to happen, an application must be submitted using the [Michigan Online Educator Certification System](#) (MOECS). MOECS will determine the certificate type (standard or professional) being applied for based on answers to the application questions. Accurate responses and supporting documentation are required. Reciprocity notwithstanding, Michigan certification is not guaranteed and ancillary state requirements exist in Michigan law (e.g., testing).

STANDARD CERTIFICATE

The Standard Teaching Certificate and the Standard CTE Certificate are the initial certificate issued to teachers who have completed an approved out-of-state teacher preparation program.

Program and Certificate Requirement:

An applicant who has completed a state-approved teacher preparation program including student teaching in another state can submit an application to be evaluated for certification.

OR

An applicant who has completed an alternative route teacher certification program in another state and holds a valid, standard teaching certificate issued based on completion of that program can submit an application to be evaluated for certification. This is not applicable to applicants who have temporary, preliminary, or interim teaching certificates from other states.

Source: NASDTEC Interstate Compact Agreement signed in accordance with Teacher Certification Code R 390.1130 Reciprocity

First Aid and CPR Requirement:

The applicant must also have current training in first aid and child and adult CPR from an [approved source](#) such as the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association.

Source: Section 1531d of Public Act 451 (1976) as amended, MCL 380.1531d

Testing Requirement:

After an evaluation of application documents, the applicant will be notified per a MOECS evaluation letter as to what appropriate subject area tests are to be taken via the [Michigan Test for Teacher Certification](#) (MTTC) in addition to the basic skills exam.

Effective September 25, 2018, candidates seeking initial teacher certification through the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will not be required to take the SAT as the [Basic Skills Exam](#).

Source: Section 1531(3) of Public Act 451 (1976) as amended, MCL 380.1531(3)

Temporary Teacher Employment Authorization:

If the applicant holds a valid, standard teaching certificate from another state, the applicant can be issued a nonrenewable Standard Temporary Teacher Employment Authorization (T2EA) that authorizes his/her employment in a Michigan school for one year. The applicant can be employed as a teacher for a year while working to pass the required tests. Additional time for testing is allowable, but without T2EA validity.

Please note that once the T2EA has expired, the law requires the passage of the tests and reciprocal evaluation for the Standard Teaching Certificate. The option of the Professional Teaching Certificate as the initial Michigan certificate can no longer be provided.

Source: Section 1531(16) of Public Act 451 (1976) as amended, MCL 380.1531(16)

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE

If an applicant who has completed an out-of-state approved teacher preparation program and holds a valid, standard teaching certificate from that state and meets all the requirements for the Professional Teaching Certificate or a Professional CTE Certificate listed below, he/she can be evaluated for the Professional certificate as his/her initial Michigan teaching certificate.

An applicant who qualifies for the Professional certificate as his/her initial Michigan certificate is not required to test.

Planned Program/Degree Requirement:

The applicant must have at least eighteen (18) semester hours in a planned program completed since the issuance of his/her initial, standard teaching certificate or have earned at any time an approved Master's or higher degree.

Teaching Experience Requirement:

The applicant must have three (3) years of successful teaching experience matching the validity of his/her standard teaching certificate from another state since it was initially issued.

Valid Certificate Requirement:

The applicant must hold a valid standard certificate from another state in the subject area(s) and grade levels for which he/she is seeking Michigan certification.

Reading Methods Requirement:

The applicant must have six (6) semester credit hours of reading methods if elementary certified or three (3) semester credit hours of reading methods if secondary certified.

Source: Section 1531(6) of Public Act 451 (1976) as amended, MCL 380.1531(6)

ADMINISTRATOR CERTIFICATE

An applicant who has completed an out-of-state approved administrator certification program can use the program to submit an application to be evaluated for certification. The application must be submitted to the [Michigan Online Educator Certification System](#) (MOECS). Accurate responses and supporting documentation are required to be evaluated.