

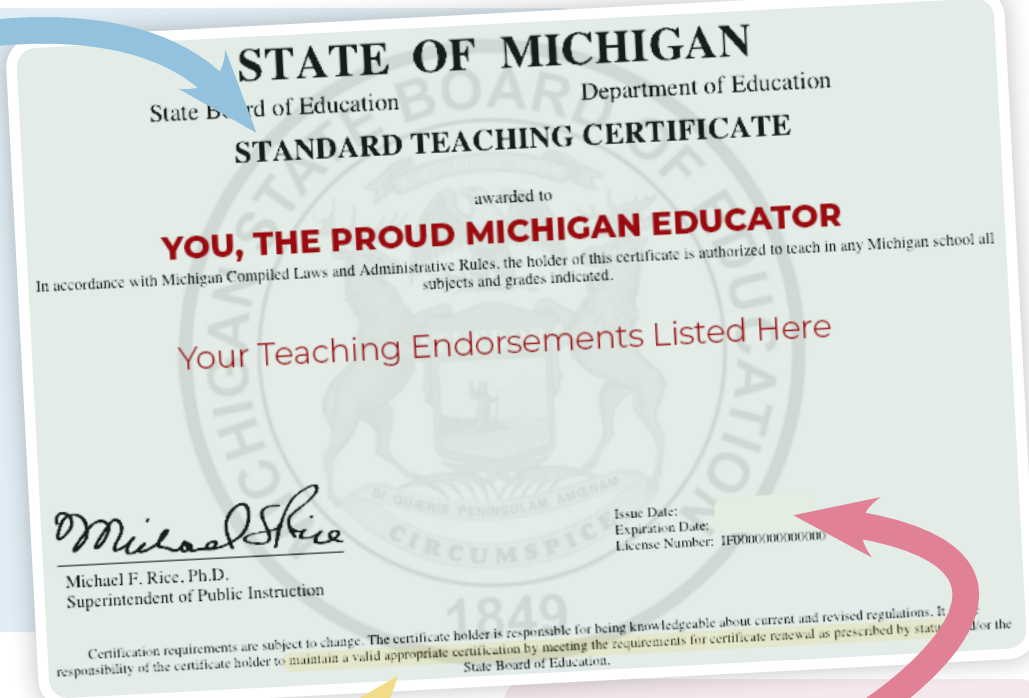
WHAT'S ON YOUR TEACHING CERTIFICATE?

CERTIFICATE TYPE

The Standard Teaching Certificate is issued to those completing certification requirements for the first time and has unlimited renewals. Michigan also offers the Professional and Advanced Professional Teaching Certificates as progressions from the Standard Teaching Certificate.

Teachers participating in certain preparation programs can earn a 1-year temporary or an Interim Teaching Certificate, with separate requirements for progression.

School counselors, school psychologists, school social workers and school administrators have their own kinds of certificates with different requirements.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE: [CERTIFICATE & CREDENTIAL TYPES](#)

MAINTAINING YOUR CERTIFICATE

Think of your Michigan teaching certificate as any other kind of important license, such as a driver's license or passport. Once you've earned it, you have to maintain it!

This part of your license is a reminder that you are responsible to maintain your certificate's validity by completing 150 hours of [Education-Related Professional Learning](#) (ERPL).

The hours may be earned as State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs - available through an approved SCECH sponsor), college credits, or any combination of either/them.

EXPIRATION DATE

Your Michigan teaching certificate will always expire **June 30**, five years from the year it was issued.

Note that this is NOT the same as having exactly five years of time for renewal. Don't wait until it's too late to complete your ERPL (see left).

A valid Michigan educator credential is required for employment.



However, there are no additional requirements to renew if your certificate expires. The renewal requirements are the same for a valid or expired certificate.

MICHIGAN CODE OF EDUCATIONAL ETHICS

The following ethical standards address the professional educator's commitment and responsibility to (and for):

Code of Ethics	https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Code_of_Ethics_653130_7.pdf
The Profession	Trust in the educational system depends upon a level of professional conduct and responsibility that may be higher than required by law. This entails holding one and others to the same ethical standards.
Professional Competence	Commitment to the highest levels of professional and ethical practice, including demonstration of the knowledge, skills and dispositions required for professional competence.
To Students	A primary obligation to treat students with dignity and respect, including promoting the health, safety and well-being of students by establishing and maintaining appropriate verbal, physical, emotional and social boundaries.
The School Community	Promotion of positive relationships and effective interactions with all members of the school community, while maintaining professional boundaries.
Ethical Use of Technology	Consideration of the impact of consuming, creating, distributing and communicating information through all technologies. Vigilance to ensure that appropriate boundaries of time, place and role are maintained when using electronic communication.

A CUT ABOVE

Michigan teachers are expected to behave as positive models for their learners. No one is perfect, of course—but teachers must adhere to a very high standard of professionalism. Pro tip: Note especially what your certificate says about maintaining healthy and appropriate boundaries between yourself and your students.

READ THE [MICHIGAN CODE OF EDUCATIONAL ETHICS](#)

KEEP IT ON FILE

Once you get a teaching position, it is your responsibility to make sure your school or district has a copy of your valid teaching certificate on file. Note that your certificate must be notarized to be considered official.

Most schools and districts have their own certificate record keeping systems—but making sure you have a valid teaching certificate on file is a task you share with your employer!



ADVISORY TO EDUCATOR

In accordance with Public Act 96 of the Public Acts of 1995, it is a criminal misdemeanor to: use a suspended, surrendered, revoked, nullified, fraudulently obtained, altered or forged educator certificate, or a certificate of another person.

TO BE EMPLOYED AS AN EDUCATOR IN MICHIGAN THE EDUCATOR OATH MUST BE SIGNED, NOTARIZED, AND SUBMITTED TO YOUR EMPLOYER. THIS IS AN OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE ONCE SIGNED AND NOTARIZED.