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## **MICHIGAN TEACHER CERTIFICATION CHANGES**

Beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, major changes take effect regarding teacher certification in Michigan. These changes impact all areas and levels of education throughout Michigan, and will significantly alter how teachers renew and/or upgrade their certificates. If a certificate expires BEFORE 9/1/2013, the existing rules for renewal and/or upgrade remain in effect. In many cases these new rules make it easier to renew/upgrade a certificate, so careful attention should be paid to these details as they will greatly impact your professional development and continuing education choices. Details of these changes can be found below.

### **RENEWING A PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE**

You can obtain up to three (3) renewals of your provisional certificate. Each renewal is valid for up to three (3) years. To obtain your first OR second renewal, you must complete ONE of the following requirements:

1. Six (6) semester hours in a planned course of study at an approved educator preparation institution OR
2. 180 State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs) appropriate to the grade level and/or content endorsement of your certificate OR
3. A combination of semester hours and SCECHs (30 SCECHs = 1 semester credit hour) OR
4. Completion of an approved master's or higher degree in areas appropriate to K-12 teaching at an approved educator preparation institution

*\*\*Options 1, 2 and 3 (above) must be completed AFTER the issuance of your previous certificate/renewal. Option 4 (above) can be completed at any time.*

To obtain your THIRD renewal, you must be sponsored by your local school district (or private school), complete all academic requirements for the professional certificate AND obtain approval from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). If you meet all requirements for the professional certificate, you will not be allowed to pursue a third renewal of your provisional certificate and must instead upgrade to the professional certificate.

### **OBTAINING A PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE**

The professional certificate is Michigan's advanced teaching license. It is valid for up to five (5) years. To obtain your professional certificate, you must complete all the requirements below:

1. Three (3) years successful teaching experience within the grade level and/or content endorsement of your certificate AND
2. The necessary reading requirements, as stated below:
  - a. 6 semester hours of teaching of reading or reading methods for elementary OR 3 semester hours for secondary AND

- b. 3 semester hours of reading diagnostics and remediation (including a field experience). Please visit [www.michigan.gov/teachercert](http://www.michigan.gov/teachercert) (looking under the Specialty Programs heading at the bottom of the page) for a complete list of all approved courses.

To obtain your professional certificate, you must also complete ONE of the following requirements:

1. Six (6) semester hours in a planned course of study at an approved educator preparation institution OR
2. 180 State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs) appropriate to the grade level and/or content endorsement of your certificate OR
3. 150 annual District Provided Professional Development (DPPD) hours. *Please note that professional development associated with the induction and mentoring period (required by MCL 380.1526) may not be used to satisfy this requirement.* Please visit [www.michigan.gov/moecs](http://www.michigan.gov/moecs) to view the necessary form OR
4. A combination of semester hours and SCECHs (30 SCECHs = 1 semester credit hour; 30 DPPD hours = 1 semester credit hour; 1 SCECH = 1 DPPD hour)

### **RENEWING A PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE**

You can obtain an infinite number of renewals of your professional certificate. Each renewal is valid for up to five (5) years. To obtain renewals of your professional certificate, you must complete ONE of the following requirements:

1. Six (6) semester hours in a planned course of study at an approved educator preparation institution OR
2. 180 State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs) appropriate to the grade level and/or content endorsement of your certificate OR
3. 150 annual District Provided Professional Development (DPPD) hours. Please visit [www.michigan.gov/moecs](http://www.michigan.gov/moecs) to view the necessary form OR
4. A combination of semester hours and SCECHs (30 SCECHs = 1 semester credit hour; 30 DPPD hours = 1 semester credit hour; 1 SCECH = 1 DPPD hour)

### **THE NEW ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE**

The *advanced* professional certificate is Michigan's new top teaching license. It is valid for up to five (5) years. To obtain your advanced professional certificate, you must complete all the requirements below:

1. Currently hold the professional education certificate AND
2. Hold national board certification or have completed a teacher leader training or preparation program approved by the superintendent of public instruction AND
3. Have received 5 consecutive effective or highly effective ratings on the annual teacher evaluation in the most recent 5-year period

### **RENEWING AN ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE**

You can obtain an infinite number of renewals of your advanced professional certificate. Each renewal is valid for up to five (5) years. To obtain renewals of your advanced professional certificate, you must have received 5 consecutive effective or highly effective ratings on the annual teacher evaluation in the most recent 5-year period AND completed ONE of the following requirements:

1. Six (6) semester hours in a planned course of study at an approved educator preparation institution OR
2. 180 State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs) appropriate to the grade level and/or content endorsement of your certificate OR
3. 150 annual District Provided Professional Development (DPPD) hours. Please visit [www.michigan.gov/moecs](http://www.michigan.gov/moecs) to view the necessary form OR
4. A combination of semester hours and SCECHs (30 SCECHs = 1 semester credit hour; 30 DPPD hours = 1 semester credit hour; 1 SCECH = 1 DPPD hour)

## **CONCLUSIONS**

What are the biggest changes to be aware of? For starters, you no longer have to begin pursuing a master's degree (or obtain 18 semester credit hours in an approved program of study) to be eligible for a professional certificate. While this change certainly makes it easier to obtain your professional certificate, it also removes the requirement (and thus "automatic pay increase") earned by obtaining an advanced degree. The pay increase will most likely remain for most districts—you just won't move to that lane on the salary schedule by default if upgrading to your professional certificate.

The second big change has to do with the treatment of District Provided Professional Development (DPPD) hours as acceptable contact hours for professional certificate renewal/upgrade. Attending your school district's five (5) professional development days throughout the school year for five (5) consecutive years would provide you with the 150 DPPD hours necessary to obtain/renew your professional certificate. You **MUST** attend all 5 days for 5 consecutive years (6 hours per day) to be eligible for this option; if you miss even one day, you will be forced to use any DPPD hours obtained in conjunction with SCECHs to obtain 180 hours total. Contact your district to discuss this change and how it might affect the renewal of your certificate.

Only a portion of the complex certification changes is explained above. The information above covers only in-state residents who are already certified. If you are moving into Michigan from another state, please review all Michigan requirements for out-of-state transfers. If your specific certificate situation is not explained above, or if you want more information about these important changes, please visit [www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) and click on "Teacher Certification and Preparation," then "Facts on Educator Certification in Michigan." Careful attention should be paid to these details as they will greatly impact your professional development and continuing education choices now and in the future.

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*The information contained in this document was compiled from various sources, including:*

- *Michigan Department of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Teacher Certification Code (Rule 390.1101 - 390.1216)*
- *Michigan Department of Education "Facts on Educator Certification"*
- *Michigan Department of Education MOECS "New Administrative Rule Changes, District Provided Professional Development (DPPD)"*