

ABCTE (American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence)

In June 2007 the South Carolina General Assembly passed H. 3476, cited as the "American Board for the Certification of Teacher Excellence Act." The Act provides that a S.C. public school district may hire individuals who use the ABCTE process to obtain a South Carolina teaching certificate.

Applicants for teacher certification in S.C. who qualify for the *Passport to Teaching* certificate issued by ABCTE in the fields of biology, chemistry, English, mathematics, physics, or science may apply for a one-year alternate route certificate in S.C., upon verification of an employment offer as a teacher in a S.C. public school. The alternate route certificate may be renewed annually for two additional years upon verification of successful teaching. To advance to the professional certificate (five-year certificate), the applicant must complete induction and ADEPT (teacher evaluation) requirements, and pass the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) praxis exam. College degrees earned by individuals who hold the *Passport to Teaching* certificate must have been from regionally accredited colleges.

In addition, based on guidance from the United States Department of Education regarding No Child Left Behind (NCLB), individuals who have participated in, but not completed, other alternative certification routes in South Carolina may not be eligible for participation in ABCTE. If you have participated in another alternative program recognized in South Carolina, please contact the Office of Educator Certification prior to initiating the application process for ABCTE.

South Carolina Certification Requirements for ABCTE Certified Teachers

An ABCTE applicant for South Carolina certification will receive a *South Carolina statement of eligibility*. Upon confirming an offer of employment as a teacher in a South Carolina public school, a one year *South Carolina Alternate Route Certificate* will be issued. This certificate may be renewed annually for two additional years upon verification of successful teaching. Upon completion of the requirements specified below, a *South Carolina Professional Certificate* may be issued.

Step 1: To receive the **South Carolina statement of eligibility**, ABCTE Certified Teachers must:

- Successfully complete the ABCTE certification process.
- Submit a disclosure authorization form to ABCTE requesting that your score reports be released to the South Carolina Office of Educator Certification.

- Submit a notarized copy of the front and back of the ABCTE certificate with a completed South Carolina certification application (<http://www.scteachers.org/cert/certpdf/newapp.pdf> - \$105 fee) and complete the required FBI fingerprint check (information available at www.scteachers.org).

Step 2: To receive a **South Carolina Alternate Route Certificate**, ABCTE Certified Teachers must complete the following:

- Obtain a letter of intent to hire from a South Carolina public or charter school, and provide verification of the offer to the Office of Educator Certification.

Step 3: To receive a **South Carolina Professional Certificate**, ABCTE Certified Teachers must complete the following:

- Teach successfully for three years in a South Carolina public or charter school **only**.
- Complete induction and formal teacher evaluation requirements as directed by the employing school/school district (the charter school must utilize South Carolina's ADEPT evaluation process for formal evaluation).
- Take and pass the Praxis exam in Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT: Grades 9-12).

Upon meeting the above requirements, the applicant may apply for a South Carolina Professional Teaching certificate in the area in which he/she is qualified by submitting a change/action form to the Office of Educator Certification (available at www.scteachers.org).

Once the applicant has received the South Carolina Professional Teaching certificate the holder is subject to all South Carolina requirements to maintain and renew certification.

To obtain more information about ABCTE and the *Passport to Teaching certificate*, please go to their Web site at www.abcte.org.

Or

ABCTE 1-877-669-2228 contact@abcte.org