

SAFE-T Certification

SAFE-T

SAFE-T is the acronym for the Summative ADEPT Formal Evaluation of Classroom-Based Teachers.

SAFE-T is the state's new ADEPT formal evaluation model that is replacing the original ADEPT formal evaluation models (e.g., TEAM, STEP, FEAT, etc.) for classroom-based teachers.

SAFE-T is scheduled for full statewide implementation in 2010–11.

SAFE-T applies *only* to classroom-based teachers (i.e., teachers of core content subjects; teachers of related subjects such as physical education, career and technology education, and the like; and teachers of special education).

SAFE-T is *not* appropriate for the evaluation of special area educators (i.e., school guidance counselors, library media specialists, and speech-language therapists). The 2003 special area standards and evaluation models continue to apply to these groups of educators.

SAFE-T Certification

Currently, there are two categories of SAFE-T certification:

- **SAFE-T Evaluator Certification.** Certified SAFE-T evaluators are eligible to serve on evaluation teams for classroom-based teachers who are employed at the annual- or continuing-contract level and who are scheduled to undergo SAFE-T.
- **SAFE-T Trainer Certification.** Certified SAFE-T trainers are eligible to conduct SAFE-T evaluator training sessions (i.e., training sessions that are designed to prepare qualified educators to become SAFE-T evaluators) that are approved by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) and sponsored by school districts or other SCDE-approved affiliates.

SAFE-T Evaluator Certification

SAFE-T Evaluator Eligibility Criteria

In order to qualify for SAFE-T evaluator training, an educator must

- hold a valid South Carolina professional teaching certificate and
- be recommended for SAFE-T evaluator training by a district or school administrator.

SAFE-T Evaluator Training

In order to become certified as a SAFE-T evaluator, an eligible educator must successfully complete a SAFE-T evaluator training session that is approved by the SCDE, sponsored by a school district or other SCDE-approved affiliate, and conducted by a certified SAFE-T trainer. Currently, there are two SAFE-T evaluator training options:

- **SAFE-T Evaluator Upgrade Training.** This training option is available *only* for educators who are certified as evaluators under one of the original ADEPT formal evaluation models (e.g., TEAM, STEP, FEAT, etc.) and who meet both of the SAFE-T evaluator eligibility criteria. The *minimum* length of SAFE-T Evaluator Upgrade Training is four hours.
- **SAFE-T New Evaluator Training (SAFE-T NET).** This training option is required for educators who are *not* certified as evaluators under one of the original ADEPT formal evaluation models (e.g., TEAM, STEP, FEAT, etc.) but who meet both of the SAFE-T evaluator eligibility criteria. The *minimum* length of SAFE-T NET is three days or the equivalent (i.e., 21 hours).

SAFE-T Evaluator Certification Requirements

In order to qualify for SAFE-T evaluator certification, the educator must

- attend the entirety of either the SAFE-T Evaluator Upgrade Training session (if eligible) or the SAFE-T NET sessions,
- participate in and contribute to all session activities,
- successfully complete all assignments, and
- receive a passing score on the SAFE-T examination.

Maintaining SAFE-T Evaluator Certification

In order to maintain SAFE-T evaluator certification, the educator must

- continue to hold a valid South Carolina professional teaching certificate,
- remain as an evaluator in good standing, and
- successfully complete all SAFE-T evaluator update requirements on an ongoing basis.

SAFE-T Trainer Certification

SAFE-T Trainer Eligibility Criteria

In order to qualify for SAFE-T trainer training, an educator must

- hold a valid South Carolina professional teaching certificate,
- be a certified SAFE-T evaluator in good standing, and
- be recommended for SAFE-T trainer training by a district administrator.

SAFE-T Trainer Certification Process

In order to become certified as a SAFE-T trainer, an eligible educator must successfully complete a SAFE-T NET trainer training session that is conducted by the SCDE.

SAFE-T NET Trainer Training

- SAFE-T NET trainer training is conducted *only* by the SCDE.
- The *minimum* length of SAFE-T NET trainer training is one day.
- In order to qualify for SAFE-T trainer certification, the educator must
 - attend the SAFE-T NET trainer training session in its entirety,
 - participate in and contribute to all session activities,
 - successfully complete all assignments, and
 - be recommended for SAFE-T trainer certification by the SCDE.

Maintaining SAFE-T Trainer Certification

In order to maintain SAFE-T trainer certification, the educator must

- continue to hold a valid South Carolina professional teaching certificate,
- remain as a SAFE-T evaluator and trainer in good standing, and
- successfully complete all SAFE-T evaluator and trainer update requirements on an ongoing basis.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Beginning January 1, 2011, SAFE-T Evaluator Upgrade Training will be discontinued. Therefore,

- SAFE-T NET will become the sole training option for all educators who pursue SAFE-T evaluator certification after that date, and
- successful completion of SAFE-T NET trainer training is required for SAFE-T trainer certification.