

## Quick Facts about South Carolina's Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements



### Who?

#### **Who must be highly qualified?**

All teachers in all schools who provide the primary instruction in core academic subjects must be highly qualified. All teachers hired for the purpose of reducing class size, whose salaries are paid through the No Child Left Behind Act's *Improving Teacher Quality Grant* funds must be highly qualified.

#### **Who is not required to be highly qualified?**

Teachers who instruct in the areas of physical education, health education, career and technology education, or driver education are not required to meet the highly qualified requirement. Teachers who do not provide the primary instruction in a core academic subject are not required to meet the highly qualified requirement. Such teachers may include, but are not limited to, special education, ESOL, and Reading Recovery teachers who only provide reinforcement, accommodations, instruction in study skills, or act as a consultant to a highly qualified teacher of record.

Substitute teachers are not part of South Carolina's definition of a teacher and do not have to meet the requirements of being highly qualified. However, if substitutes teach in a particular classroom for more than four weeks in a Title I school-wide or targeted assistance program, the school must notify parents that the students are being taught by individuals who are not highly qualified.



### What?

**What are the core academic subjects?** The core academic subjects are: English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics, government, economics, history, geography, dance, art, and music.

### **What are the criteria for being highly qualified?**

A highly qualified teacher must 1) have earned at least a bachelor's degree, 2) demonstrate content knowledge in each core content area he or she teaches, and 3) have full state certification appropriate for the teaching assignment.

### **What types of certifications are acceptable?**

The Office of Educator Certification (OEC) issues six types of teaching certificates that meet the highly qualified requirements for full state certification. They are as follows:

- Initial,
- Critical Need (PACE),
- International,
- Internship,
- Professional (includes Regular Grade A issued prior to 1970), and
- Restricted Alternative Certificate (RAC).

The OEC phased out the issuance of unacceptable certifications for teachers of core academic subjects July 1, 2006. Descriptions are available at the Web site: <http://www.scteachers.org/titleii/certdesc.cfm> .

### **What are the current certification levels?**

South Carolina's certification levels are as follows:

Early Childhood	PK-3
Elementary	2-6
Middle Level	5-8
Secondary	9-12
Special Education	P-12
Special Subjects	P-12 foreign languages, music, art, dance and reading)

### **What certificates are required for teaching specific classes?**

A teacher is only highly qualified if the educator's certification is appropriate for the assigned classes. The *Required Credentials for Professional Staff Members in the Professional Programs of South Carolina's Public Schools* document is available through the link:

[ed.sc.gov/agency/Accountability/Federal-and-State-Accountability/Accreditation/AccreditationofSchoolsandDistricts.html](http://ed.sc.gov/agency/Accountability/Federal-and-State-Accountability/Accreditation/AccreditationofSchoolsandDistricts.html)

### **What identifies a teacher as new or veteran?**

A teacher who has less than one year of teaching experience is considered to be new. Teachers with at least one year of teaching experience are considered to be veterans. Only veteran teachers have the option of HOUSSE to demonstrate content knowledge.



**How?**

**How can new or veteran early childhood, elementary, or special education teachers demonstrate knowledge in each core content subject they instruct?**

Certification Area	Options for Demonstration of Content Knowledge
Elementary Education (2-6)	<p>(New or Veteran Teachers)            NTE: <i>Education in the Elementary School</i>, <b>or</b>            Praxis II: <i>Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment</i> (#0011),  <b>or</b>            Praxis II: <i>Elementary Education: Content Area Exercises</i> (#0012)  <i>Reciprocity for comparable out-of-state exams</i></p>
	<p>(Veteran Teachers Only)            HOUSSE            Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts  <b>or</b>            Multi-Subject  <i>Submit official out-of-state HOUSSE plans for consideration.</i></p>
	<p><b>or</b>            National Board of Professional Standards for Teachers (NBTPS) Certification for the appropriate age and area</p>
Early Childhood Education (PK-3)	<p>(New or Veteran Teachers)            Either of the above Praxis exams (#0011 or #0012),  <b>or</b>            NTE: <i>Education in the Elementary School</i>  <b>or</b>            Praxis II or NTE in Early Childhood Education (#0020)  <b>or</b>            Education of the Young Child (#0021)  <i>Reciprocity for comparable out-of-state exams</i></p>
	<p>(Veteran Teachers Only)            HOUSSE            Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts  <b>or</b>            Multi-Subject  <i>Submit official out-of state HOUSSE plans for consideration.</i></p>
	<p><b>or</b>            National Board of Professional Standards for Teachers (NBTPS) Certification for the appropriate age and area</p>

<p>Special Education in P-12<sup>1</sup></p>	<p>(New or Veteran Teachers)</p> <p>NTE: <i>Education in the Elementary School</i>,  <b>or</b>  Praxis II in <i>Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment</i> (#0011),  <b>or</b>  Praxis II in <i>Elementary Education: Content Area Exercises</i> (#0012)</p> <p><i>Reciprocity for comparable out-of-state exams</i></p> <p>(In addition, New or Veteran Teachers teaching PK-3 only)  Praxis II or NTE in <i>Early Childhood Education</i> (#0020)  <b>or</b>  <i>Education of the Young Child</i> (#0021)</p> <hr/> <p>(Veteran Teachers Only)</p> <p>HOUSSE  Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts  <b>or</b>  Multi-Subject</p> <p><i>Submit official out-of-state HOUSSE plans for consideration.</i></p>
<p>Special Education for Trainable, Profoundly, or Severely Disabled Students in P-12</p>	<p><b>Any of the exams listed above or any of the following:</b></p> <p>Praxis II in <i>Education of Exceptional Students: Teaching Students with Mental Retardation</i> (#0321),  <b>or</b>  Praxis II in <i>Education of Exceptional Students: Severe to Profound Disabilities</i> (#0544),  <b>or</b>  Praxis II in <i>Education of Exceptional Students: Core Content Knowledge</i> (#0353)</p> <p><i>Submit official out-of-state HOUSSE plans for consideration.</i></p>

<sup>1</sup>Exceptional children education teachers who provide the primary instruction in a core academic subject for which any student is earning Carnegie units toward state graduation requirements must hold appropriate South Carolina certification, as described in the *Required Credentials for Professional Staff Members in the Instructional Programs of South Carolina's Public Schools*, and must demonstrate appropriate content knowledge in each core academic subject they teach.

**How can new or veteran middle or secondary school teachers demonstrate knowledge in each core content area that they instruct?**

--	--

Certification Area	Options for Demonstrating Content Knowledge
Middle Level (5-8) Middle Level Language Arts Middle Level Mathematics Middle Level Social Studies Middle Level Science  Secondary School, (9-12) Biology Chemistry Economics English Geography Government History Mathematics Physics Science Social Studies	(New or Veteran) A passing score on a state-approved certification examination in each core academic subject the teacher instructs; <a href="http://www.scteachers.org/Cert/exam.cfm">http://www.scteachers.org/Cert/exam.cfm</a>  <i>(Comparable content exams used by other states may be accepted if the teacher became certified in South Carolina through reciprocity.)</i> <b>or</b>
	A major in the content area(s) in each core academic subject the teacher instructs, or coursework equivalent to an undergraduate major; (The equivalent of a major requires thirty semester hours, of which only nine can be at the 100 or 200 level. Twenty-four graduate semester hours constitute a major.)  <b>or</b>
P-12 Special Subject Advanced Fine Arts Art Dance Music Reading Foreign Languages	A graduate degree in each core academic subject the teacher instructs  <b>or</b> (Veteran Teachers) Successful performance on HOUSSE in each core academic subject the teacher instructs  <i>Submit official out-of-state HOUSSE plans for consideration.</i> <b>or</b> (Veteran Teachers) National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification for the appropriate subject and age range



**When?**

**When do teachers have to be highly qualified?**

All teachers of core academic subjects must be highly qualified now.



## **Where?**

### **In which schools do the teachers have to be highly qualified?**

The requirement extends to all teachers of core academic subjects who are employed by agencies or entities under the authority of the State. Teachers in alternative educational settings and juvenile institutions must be highly qualified.

No Child Left Behind honors South Carolina's charter school law. All charter school teachers must have at least a bachelor's degree and demonstrate content knowledge for the core academic subjects they teach. In addition, 75 percent of the teachers in charter schools and 90 percent of the teachers in conversion schools must have full state certification.

### **Where can I find assistance if I have questions?**

Deborah Larkin  
[dlarkin@scteachers.org](mailto:dlarkin@scteachers.org)  
phone: 803-734-3454  
fax: 803-734-0872