

Certification Types for Teachers and Teaching Assistants

April 2006 marked the latest changes in New York State certification for teachers and teaching assistants, and it is no longer as simple as having provisional or permanent certification. Currently, there are no less than thirteen different types of certificates for teachers and five different types of certificates for teaching assistants. The following charts detail those certificates. It is important for members to know about their credential and the need to protect their career and livelihood by maintaining appropriate certification. Local leaders should be aware of the variety of certificate types and the purpose and validity of each certificate.

If you should have any questions about certification or these certificate types, please contact NYSUT Research and Educational Services.

Certificate Types for Teaching Titles

CERTIFICATE	PURPOSE	NOTES
Provisional	Entry credential since 9/2/98	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available until 2/1/04 • Valid for five years • May obtain time extension of up to two years • May be renewed once
Initial	Replaces provisional certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available beginning 2/2/04
Permanent	Final credential in a title	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available to valid provisional certificate holders • Valid continuously
Professional	Replaces permanent certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available beginning 2/2/04 • Valid continuously with fulfillment of professional development requirement
Renewed Provisional	Reactivates an expired provisional certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available until 2/1/04 • Valid for five years
Transitional A	Credential for individuals in specific career and technical subjects enrolled in an alternative certification program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valid for three years • Leads to initial certification
Transitional B	Credential for individuals enrolled in an alternative certification program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valid for three years • Leads to initial certification

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Transitional C	Credential for career changers and others holding a graduate academic or graduate professional degree enrolled in an alternative certification program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid for three years Leads to professional certification
Internship	Issued to student in graduate teacher education program for employment in specified district through an internship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid up to two years Not renewable Service area specific
Statement of Continuing Eligibility (SOCE)	Allows individuals to continue teaching theater, gifted education and American Sign Language if they taught in these areas before September 1, 2006.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid for life Transferable from one NYS School district to another
Permit for Service in Areas where No Certificate Exists	For districts to employ an individual in a position for which no certificate currently exists (e.g.: NJROTC instructor, Native American studies, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid for two years May be extended for five year intervals Issued only for service in district which requested this permit
Supplementary Certificate	Allows already certified teachers to teach in a different subject area where a need exists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid for three years Must apply before September 1, 2009 Leads to an initial certificate
Visiting Lecturer	For districts to employ an individual with unusual qualifications in a specific subject	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid for one year Typically issued to teachers from other countries

Certificate Types for Teaching Assistants

CERTIFICATE	PURPOSE	NOTES
Continuing Certificate	Final credential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuously valid unless you have not been employed as a TA for five consecutive years
Level I	Entry credential for TA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available beginning 2/2/04 Valid for three years Can renew once if need additional time to meet experience requirement for Level II or Level III
Level II	Progressive credential after Level I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available beginning 2/2/05 Valid for three years – not renewable
Level III	Progressive credential after Level I or Level II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available beginning 2/2/05 Continuously valid with fulfillment of professional development requirement
Pre-professional	Progressive credential after Level I or Level II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available beginning 2/2/04 Valid for five years May be renewed once Progressive credential toward initial certification in teaching title