

WHICH CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AFFECT YOU?

New York State teacher certification regulations have changed a number of times over the years, but did you know that you are held to the requirements in place at the time you were first certified in that particular teaching title*? As a result, there are individuals currently teaching in the same title area who may need to meet very different criteria in order to obtain their final credential.

For example, if you were first certified...

- ***No later than September 1, 1993***

Applicants would have been issued a certificate of qualification as their first credential. There are no testing requirements for permanent certification regardless of your certificate title. There is also no fingerprint clearance requirement for certification. You would be required to fulfill the following:

- An application for permanent certification with fee;
- Two years of teaching experience;
- A master's degree that is functionally related to the certificate title;
- Workshops in the identification and reporting of child abuse and in school violence prevention and intervention; and
- United States Permanent Residence status.

If individuals held to these regulations do not obtain permanent certification in the time allowed and their teaching credential expires, they could start the certification process again...but it would be under the regulations in place as of that date!

- ***Between September 2, 1993 and September 1, 1999***

Applicants would have been issued a certificate of qualification as their first credential until September 1, 1998. After that date, certificates of qualification were discontinued and applicants would have been issued a provisional certificate. For permanent certification in the same title as your provisional, you would be required to fulfill the following:

- An application for permanent certification with fee;
- Two years of teaching experience;
- A master's degree that is functionally related to the certificate title;
- Qualifying scores on the applicable Content Specialty Test and the Assessment of Teaching Skills-Performance (video), if required for that certificate title;
- Fingerprint clearance;
- Workshops in the identification and reporting of child abuse and in school violence prevention and intervention; and
- United States Permanent Residence status.

If they do not obtain permanent certification in the time allowed and their teaching credential expires, they also could start the certification process again...but it would be under the regulations in place as of that date!

- ***Between September 2, 1999 and February 1, 2004***

An applicant for a permanent certificate who obtained a provisional, conditional provisional, transitional, limited or renewed provisional certificate during this period of time would be required to fulfill the following:

- ❑ An application for permanent certification with fee;
- ❑ Two years of teaching experience;
- ❑ A master's degree that is functionally related to the certificate title;
- ❑ Workshops in the identification and reporting of child abuse and in school violence prevention and intervention;
- ❑ Qualifying scores on the applicable Content Specialty Test and the Assessment of Teaching Skills-Performance (video), if required for that certificate title;
- ❑ United States Permanent Residence status; and
- ❑ Fingerprint clearance

If they do not obtain permanent certification by the time allowed and their teaching credential expires, they also could start the certification process again...but it would be under the regulations in place as of that date!

- ***On or After February 2, 2004***

Major changes occurred in NYS teacher certification for individuals applying for a credential on or after this date. An initial certificate replaces a provisional certificate as an entry credential for teaching in New York State, and, in turn, these individuals will be working toward a professional certificate as their final credential, not a permanent certificate. The earliest effective date for individuals holding initial certificates would be September 1, 2004. No examinations, workshops in the identification and reporting of child abuse and in school violence prevention and intervention, and fingerprint clearance will be required for professional certification because they were completed prior to the issuance of the initial certificate. In addition, the Assessment of Teaching Skills-Performance (video) will not be required for an initial or professional certificate. An applicant for a professional certificate would be required to fulfill the following:

- ❑ An application for professional certification with fee;
- ❑ **Three** years of teaching experience with the first year as a mentored teaching experience;
- ❑ A master's degree; and
- ❑ United States Permanent Residence status.

In order to maintain the validity of the professional certificate, an individual will be required to complete 175 hours of professional development, consistent with the school district's Professional Development Plan, every five years. There is no professional development requirement for maintaining the validity of a permanent certificate.

This Briefing Bulletin is provided for general information purposes only. If you have specific questions about your certification status that you cannot resolve through the State Education Department Office of Teaching Initiatives, please contact your local union leadership for assistance.