

Certification Pathways to Becoming a Teacher in New York



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New York State has rigorous standards, both for teachers and for students. These high expectations mean that if you choose to enter the teaching profession, you will be well prepared to help students reach their potential.

The first step to becoming a teacher is to identify the subject you want to teach. Consider not only what you think you would like to teach but also at what grade level.

The second step is figuring out the optimal way to obtain that certificate. In New York there are several paths to obtaining a state teaching certificate.

Traditional Pathway to Becoming a Teacher

You can complete a registered program at a NYS college or university and receive a recommendation for the certificate you seek.

Choose a bachelor's or a master's degree program in teacher education depending upon your prior educational background.

Alternative Education Pathways to Becoming a Teacher

NYS also offers 'Alternative Education' pathways to becoming a teacher. Many of these 'alternative pathways' are attached to state-approved teacher education programs, yet some provide a more direct line to state certification through the use of transitional certificates.

Transitional A certificates: lead to certification in Career & Technical fields and use a combination of work experience and course work to meet certification requirements.

Transitional B certificates: lead to teacher certification and are NYS graduate programs that enable you to start teaching while enrolled in the program.

Transitional C certificates: lead to teacher certification based upon your possession of a graduate degree and enrollment in a state-approved program of study.

Transitional G certificates: lead to teacher certification based upon your possession of a graduate degree and teaching experience at the college level.

New York State also allows for individuals interested in teaching to apply on their own for state certification; the state calls this the Individual Evaluation pathway. This pathway entails gathering courses that satisfy the certification requirements for the certificate you seek, including any required field experience and/or student teaching requirements.