
FISCAL TOPICS

Fiscal Services Division

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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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Teacher Licensure and Alternative Pathways

Overview

The Iowa Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE) establishes standards for educational practitioners pursuant to its authority under Iowa Code chapter [272](#). The BOEE is charged with the overall responsibility of regulating the licensure standards for teachers, administrators, paraeducators, and coaches. The BOEE sets standards for the issuance of licenses, endorsements, and authorizations to educational practitioners and sets standards for license renewal. The BOEE also investigates ethics complaints and monitors compliance of licensees with orders issued by the BOEE.

Licenses and Endorsements

Teacher candidates in the State of Iowa can receive an initial teaching license after completion of a bachelor's degree and an approved teacher preparation program at an accredited institution. For completion of a teacher preparation program, all Iowa teacher candidates must earn passing scores on both a pedagogy test, relating to the method and practice of teaching, and a content-area test before they can be eligible for licensure. A one-year temporary initial teaching license is available for teacher candidates who have completed all program requirements except for passing the required assessments.

Out-of-state teacher applicants are evaluated against Iowa practitioner preparation requirements, and if 75.0% of the program requirements are met, a conditional license may be issued. The conditional license allows applicants to begin work immediately and gives the applicant two to three years to complete any deficiencies in required coursework. Depending on the situation, some deficiencies can be waived.

When a teacher has received an Iowa teaching license, the teacher may add additional endorsements to that license to teach in a specific content area. Teachers can apply for conditional licensure, which allows them to immediately teach in the endorsement area and gives them two to three years to complete the required coursework needed to receive the endorsement.

Alternative Teacher Pathways

Fast-Track Teacher Intern Program. This Program allows a teacher applicant who has an existing bachelor's degree to complete the required coursework primarily online during the applicant's first year and then be hired as a full-time teacher in the second year of the program in place of student teaching. The University of Northern Iowa, the University of Iowa, and Iowa State University have collaborated to provide the Regents Alternative Pathway to Iowa Licensure (RAPIL) [program](#). Morningside College also offers a teacher intern [program](#).

Military Exchange License. A military exchange license is a full Iowa teaching license for veterans or military traveling spouses who have already completed a teacher preparation program in another state. No additional assessments are required, and any course deficiencies are waived. The Troops to Teachers program is a federal Department of Defense program designed to assist military personnel in their pursuit of teaching as a second career. The Iowa Troops to Teachers [program office](#) is located at the University of Iowa.

More Information

Iowa Board of Educational Examiners: boee.iowa.gov
LSA Staff Contact: Lora Vargason (515.725.2249) lora.vargason@legis.iowa.gov

Limited Teaching Authorization. An authorization allows an individual to provide teaching to limited areas without the requirement of completion of a teacher preparation program. Teaching authorizations are available in both the career and technical education (CTE) area and foreign languages. To receive a CTE authorization, 6,000 experience hours or 4,000 experience hours and a bachelor's degree are required. CTE authorization applicants can begin teaching immediately while pedagogy courses are completed online, and no additional testing is required. Applicants whose native language is one other than English can receive a native language speaker authorization with a completed bachelor's degree and passage of a content test in their native language. Foreign language authorization applicants can begin teaching immediately while pedagogy courses are completed online. Both authorizations require a position offer, and the native language speaker authorization requires the school district to show that no properly endorsed candidates were available for the position.

Other. Teacher licensure is not required for instructors teaching community college courses. A school district may hire a nonlicensed instructor for community college courses offered by a school district at a high school through a concurrent enrollment agreement.

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