

Teacher Certification Information

by Helen Wild-Norris

The nation is facing a major educational challenge – a growing shortage of qualified teachers. Whether you are a recent college graduate, a teacher looking to relocate to another state, or someone who does not yet have a college degree, information on how to become certified is available to you on-line. While teacher certification programs vary from state to state, most education departments are similar in their basic requirements.

Basic Requirements:

- You must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.

Several state's institutions do not offer a degree in education. Every teacher must have an academic major, as well as teacher training courses.

- You must complete teacher training through an approved program.

These programs are offered through colleges and universities, school districts, regional service centers, community colleges, and other entities.

- You must successfully complete the appropriate teacher certification tests for the subject and grade level you wish to teach.

Check with the certification board in your state of interest for a list of the certification tests and information on which tests are required.

Choosing A Program:

- Programs for those who do not yet have a college education.

Colleges and universities offer programs for training teachers. You will receive the training you need to be an effective teacher as well as a degree in an academic major.

- Programs for those who already have an academic degree.

Generally, standard and accelerated programs are available in most states. Both types of programs offer training on how to become an effective teacher as well as additional courses that may be required for the subject you wish to teach. Many programs take one year to complete, during which time you may have a paid teaching position in a public school classroom.

- Temporary Teaching Certification.

Many states offer Temporary Teaching Certificates to those individuals holding higher education degrees, who pass state mandated standardized tests, and who are interested in teaching junior high and high school kids. These certifications are often revoked after 1-5 years of teaching (in Texas, 3) before requiring teachers to obtain a standard certificate.

Certifications and/or continuing education courses specific to dance teachers are offered by several organizations. Some include:

Dance Educators of America

<http://www.deadance.com/teachertraining>

Dance/Drill Team Directors of America

<http://www.dtda.org>

State Organizations:

ALABAMA

<http://www.alsde.edu>
334-242-9560

ALASKA

<http://www.educ.state.ak.us>
907-465-2831

ARIZONA

<http://www.ade.state.az.us/certification/>
602-542-4367

ARKANSAS

<http://arkedu.state.ar.us>
501-682-4342

CALIFORNIA

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/>
888-921-2682

COLORADO

<http://www.cde.state.co.us>
303-866-6628

CONNECTICUT

<http://www.state.ct.us>
860-713-6969

DELAWARE

<http://www.teachdelaware.com>
888-759-9133

D.C.

<http://www.k12.dc.us>
202-724-4222

FLORIDA

<http://www.fldoe.org>
850-245-0505

GEORGIA

<http://www.gapsc.com/>
404-656-2800

HAWAII

<http://doe.k12.hi.us/personnel/teachinginhawaii.htm>
808-586-3349



IDAHO
<http://www.sde.state.id.us/certification/>
208-332-6883

ILLINOIS
<http://www.isbe.net/certification/>
312-814-8113

INDIANA
<http://www.ai.org/psb/>
866-542-3672

IOWA
<http://www.state.ia.us/boee/>
515-281-3245

KANSAS
<http://www.ksbe.state.ks.us/cert>
785-291-3678

KENTUCKY
<http://www.kyepsb.net>
502-564-4606

LOUISIANA
<http://www.doe.state.la.us>
877-453-2721

MAINE
<http://www.state.me.us>
207-624-6603

MARYLAND
<https://certification.msde.state.md.us>
410-767-0412

MASSACHUSETTES
<http://www.doe.mass.edu>
781-338-3000

MICHIGAN
<http://www.michigan.gov>
517-373-3324

MINNESOTA
<http://education.state.mn.us>
651-582-8200

MISSISSIPPI
<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us>
601-359-3483

MISSOURI
<http://www.dese.state.mo.us>
573-751-0051

MONTANA
<http://www.opi.state.mt.us>
406-444-3150

NEBRASKA
<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/TCERT>
402-471-0739

NEVADA
<http://www.doe.nv.gov/licensure>
702-486-6458

NEW HAMPSHIRE
<http://www.academply.com/cert/certnh.htm>
603-271-2407

NEW JERSEY
<http://www.state.nj.us/njded/educators>
609-292-4469

NEW MEXICO
<http://www.ped.state.nm.us/div>
505-827-6587

NEW YORK
<http://ohe33.nysed.gov/tcert/>
518-474-3901

NORTH CAROLINA
<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/licensure>
919-807-3310

NORTH DAKOTA
<http://www.state.nd.us/esp/>
701-328-9641

OHIO
<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/teaching-profession>
614-466-3593

OKLAHOMA
<http://sde.state.ok.us/home>
405-521-3301

OREGON
<http://www.ous.edu/aca/tchred.htm>
503-725-5700

PENNSYLVANIA
<http://www.teaching.state.pa.us/teaching>
717-783-6788

RHODE ISLAND
http://www.ridoe.net/teacher_cert
401-222-4600

SOUTH CAROLINA
<http://www.scteac.org/index.cfm>
803-734-8466

SOUTH DAKOTA
<http://www.state.sd.us/deca/>
605-773-5669

TENNESSEE
<http://www.state.tn.us/education/lic>
615-532-4885

TEXAS
<http://www.sbec.state.tx.us>
888-863-5880

UTAH
<http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/cert>
801-538-7530

VERMONT
<http://www.state.vt.us/educ/>
802-828-2445

VIRGINIA
<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/newwdoe>
800-292-3820

WASHINGTON
<http://www.k12.wa.us/certification/>
360-725-6400

WEST VIRGINIA
<http://wvde.state.wv.us/certification/>
800-982-2378

WISCONSIN
<http://www.dpi.state.wi.us>
608-266-3390

WYOMING
<http://www.k12.wy.us/ptsb>
307-777-7291

