

ESL/Bilingual Certification Q & A Webinar  
December 11, 2020

1. What is the process for emergency CE SPED certification?  
Emergency certification for Teacher of Students with Disabilities (TOSD) is not available. A Temporary TOSD CE is available if the applicant also holds an instructional Temporary CE. Temporary CE's expire July 31, 2021.
2. Candidates are having trouble passing the written Praxis. what can be done?  
Candidate can contact ETS to request guidance regarding study guides.
3. Does the certification office communicate with colleges and universities to help them understand teaching job opportunities and those in demand?  
Please contact Recruitment, Preparation, and Induction Office at [rpr@doe.nj.gov](mailto:rpr@doe.nj.gov).
4. Explore opportunities to recruit bilingual teachers and increase teacher diversity (including linguistic diversity).  
Please contact Recruitment, Preparation, and Induction Office at [rpr@doe.nj.gov](mailto:rpr@doe.nj.gov).
5. How long does it take for certification applications to be approved?  
Current processing times are 8-10 weeks from when all required documents have been received by our office and application status changes to "To Examiner".
6. What is the expedite process for certification?  
Expedited applications must be submitted by the school district through the [County Office of Education](#).
7. What is a CE vs. a CEAs?  
[CEs versus CEAs](#)
8. What is the basic skills test? Are there any flexibilities with this?  
All candidates must pass a Commissioner-approved test of basic skills, or score in the top one-third percentile on the SAT, ACT, or GRE for the year the test was taken.
9. Any recommendations for becoming a bilingual teacher? See below  
Bilingual CE and CEAS Requirements  
  
[NJ Bilingual CE License Endorsements](#)  
[NJ Bilingual CEA License Endorsements](#)
10. Any recommendations for becoming an ESL teacher? ESL CE and CEAS Requirements:  
  
[NJ ESL CE License Endorsements](#)  
[NJ ESL CEA License Endorsements](#)

Temporary CE Guidance

[Temporary Guidance for Teachers During COVID-19](#)

10. Can you explain the alternate route?

[Guidance for Alternate Route Candidates](#)

11. If an elementary ESL teacher teaches ESL through Science and Social Studies and therefore replaces those two content areas, must they have an additional elementary certification?

Yes, they must hold the elementary certification.

12. In the same scenario and since HQT does not exist anymore, would passing the Science and Social Studies PRAXIS be sufficient?

No, they must hold the elementary certification.

13. Can an ESL certified teacher teach ESL through any content area without any additional certification (at the elementary level)?

An ESL teacher can teach the language of the content areas (Language arts, social studies, science, and math), but not teach the subject matter.

14. Does an ESL cert cover only language arts replacement at the elementary level?

Yes

15. Can an elementary ESL certified teacher teach a homeroom/class of all English Learners by herself (and teach all the content areas) without any additional certifications?

No, they must hold the elementary certification.

16. Are there any flexibilities for Bilingual Education teacher candidates when it comes to language proficiency test requirements and scores? Please see the questions below for test scores.

17. What are the ESL required English language proficiency tests and scores for licenses?

English Oral Proficiency Test (OPI)-Advance Low or higher;

English Written Proficiency Test (WPT)- Advance Low or higher;

\*Exceptions regarding English WPT- Candidates will be exempt from English (WPT) if passed Department approved basic skills requirement.

18. What are the Bilingual required English and Target Language proficiency tests and scores for licenses?

English Oral Proficiency Test (OPI)-Intermediate High;

English Written Proficiency Test (WPT)- Advance Low if Target Language WPT score is Intermediate High;

\*Exceptions regarding English WPT- Candidates will be exempt from English (WPT) if passed Department approved basic skills requirement

19. What are the required Target Language Proficiency Test scores?

Target Language OPI-Advanced Low;

Target Language WPT-Advanced Low if English WPT score is Intermediate High;

Or Target Language WPT-Intermediate High if English WPT score is Advanced Low;

\*Exceptions regarding Target Language OPI and WPT- Candidates for certification who establish themselves as a speaker of the target language who was primarily educated at the undergraduate or graduate level in that language, as determined by their submitted foreign evaluation transcript(s), will be exempt from taking the oral and written language proficiency tests (OPI & WPT) in their target language.

You can find more information and contact information at [New Jersey Department of Education Office of Certification and Induction.](#)