



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: June 30, 2020
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: All School Staff
From: Linda P. Eno, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Academics and Performance
Applicable: Until the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

New Temporary Certifications and Flexibilities for Candidates Impacted by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Through a regulatory modification (“waiver”) of certification requirements, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is providing certification flexibility to candidates who apply during the public health emergency by deferring the completion of certain certification assessment requirements until July 31, 2021. Due to the logistical constraints posed by the COVID-19 public health emergency, candidates seeking initial instructional and administrative certificates that require passage of content knowledge and/or basic skills tests (e.g. Praxis) may be eligible for a temporary certificate that allows candidates to enter the workforce before passing the test(s).

Between June 30, 2020 and the lifting of the public health emergency, candidates may apply for a Temporary Certificate of Eligibility (CE). Educators with Temporary CEs can be hired and can work under the Temporary CE. All Temporary CEs will expire on July 31, 2021. To maintain certification and employment eligibility without interruption, candidates must complete all required certification assessments and reapply for a typical CE or Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) by July 31, 2021.

Temporary CE holders who pass the applicable required test(s) will be eligible for a typical CE or CEAS and instructional candidates with a Temporary CE will have their fees waived for conversion of the Temporary CE to the typical CE or CEAS if they reapply before their Temporary CE expires on July 31, 2021.

The waiver creates or allows similar, additional assessment requirement flexibilities in the following ways:

- Educator Preparation Programs may admit candidates who have met all requirements other than the basic skills requirement. Candidates must complete the requirement before graduation and recommendation for a CEAS.
- Charter School CE candidates are eligible for a temporary certificate and may defer assessment passage until no later than July 31, 2021.
- Foreign teachers may obtain an emergency limited certificate and defer assessment passage until no later than July 31, 2021.
- Candidates may obtain an emergency educational services certificate with an educational interpreter endorsement (sign language interpreting) and defer assessment passage until no later than July 31, 2021.
- CE holders with an endorsement in career and technical education whose provisional license is expiring during the COVID-19 public health emergency may be granted an additional provisional period of two years to complete the basic skills test requirement.
- Educational services certificate holders with a speech language specialist endorsement whose provisional license is expiring during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency may be granted an additional provisional period of two years to complete the assessment requirement.

Once a Temporary CE holder is employed and upon registration by the employing school district, a temporary provisional certificate (Temporary Provisional) will be issued. Time spent working under a Temporary Provisional, as well as any requirements completed under a Temporary Provisional, will count towards the candidate's overall provisional period and may count towards tenure.

There will be no renewal of any of these temporary measures beyond those described above under any circumstance.

The NJDOE has also expanded flexibilities regarding the performance assessment (edTPA) certification requirement. In addition to flexibilities announced last month, the performance assessment requirement will also be waived for candidates who seek reciprocity with New Jersey for a CEAS and who completed at least one section of the performance assessment between January 1, 2020 and June 30, 2020.

Key steps/actions

Districts can hire educators holding a Temporary Instructional or Administrative CE. Districts should register teachers holding a Temporary CE into the provisional teacher process.

Districts can also direct potential hires to the [COVID-19 guidance page](#) for information on the following:

- Temporary Instructional Certificate Guidance
- Temporary Administrative Certificate Guidance
- Updated guidance on the waiver of the performance assessment (edTPA)
- Other flexibilities related to certification requirements and required assessments

Contact information

Please contact certification.outreach@doe.nj.gov with questions about this regulatory waiver.

Please contact licensing.requests@doe.nj.gov with general questions about certification.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group