

# Teacher Certification

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

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[education.alaska.gov](http://education.alaska.gov)



Senate Education Committee  
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**AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION FOR EVERY STUDENT EVERY DAY**



# Our Mission, Vision, and Purpose

## OUR MISSION

- › An excellent education for every student every day.

## OUR VISION

- › All students will succeed in their education and work, shape worthwhile and satisfying lives for themselves, exemplify the best values of society, and be effective in improving the character and quality of the world about them.
  - Alaska Statute 14.03.015

## OUR PURPOSE

- › DEED exists to provide **information**, **resources**, and **leadership** to support an excellent education for every student every day.

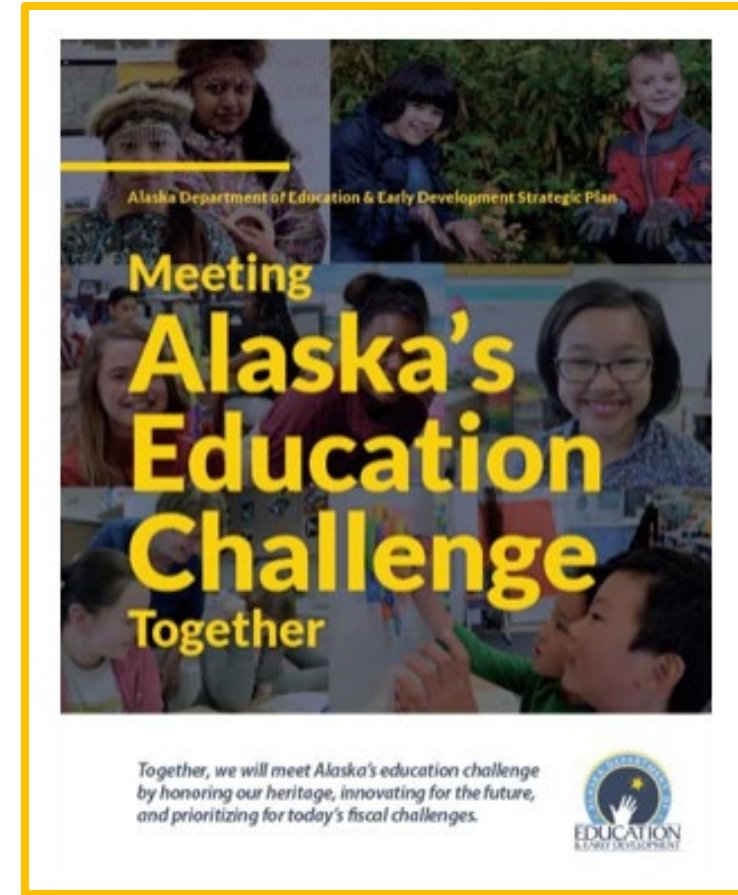




# Our Strategic Priorities: Alaska's Education Challenge

## Five Shared Priorities:

1. Support all students to read at grade level by the end of third grade
2. Increase career, technical, and culturally relevant education to meet student and workforce needs
3. Close the achievement gap by ensuring equitable educational rigor and resources
4. Prepare, attract, and retain effective education professionals
5. Improve the safety and well-being of students through school partnerships with families, communities, and tribes



[education.alaska.gov/akedchallenge](http://education.alaska.gov/akedchallenge)



# Goal & Objectives

## › Goal:

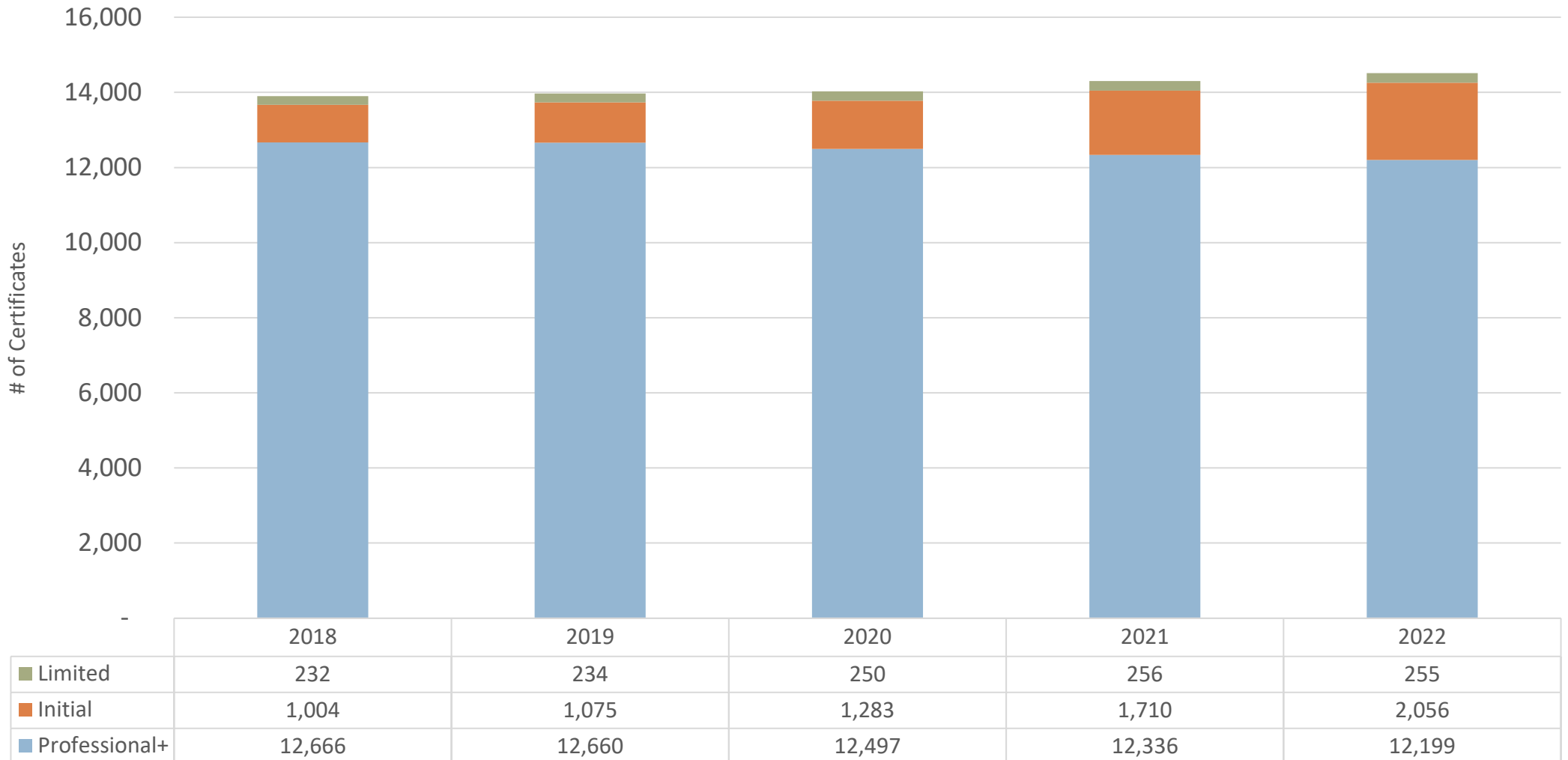
- To increase understanding of the Alaska teacher certification system

## › Objectives:

- Identify the statutes and regulations that frame the Alaska teacher certification system
- Explain the requirements, limitations, and level of use of each teaching certificate type available in Alaska
- Define “approved teacher preparation program”
- Describe the pathways to Alaska teacher certification



# Alaska Teaching Certificates 2018 – 2022 (January 1 Counts)



# Regular Teacher Certification

Professional, Retired/Lifetime, and Master Certificates



# Professional Certification

## AS 14.20.020

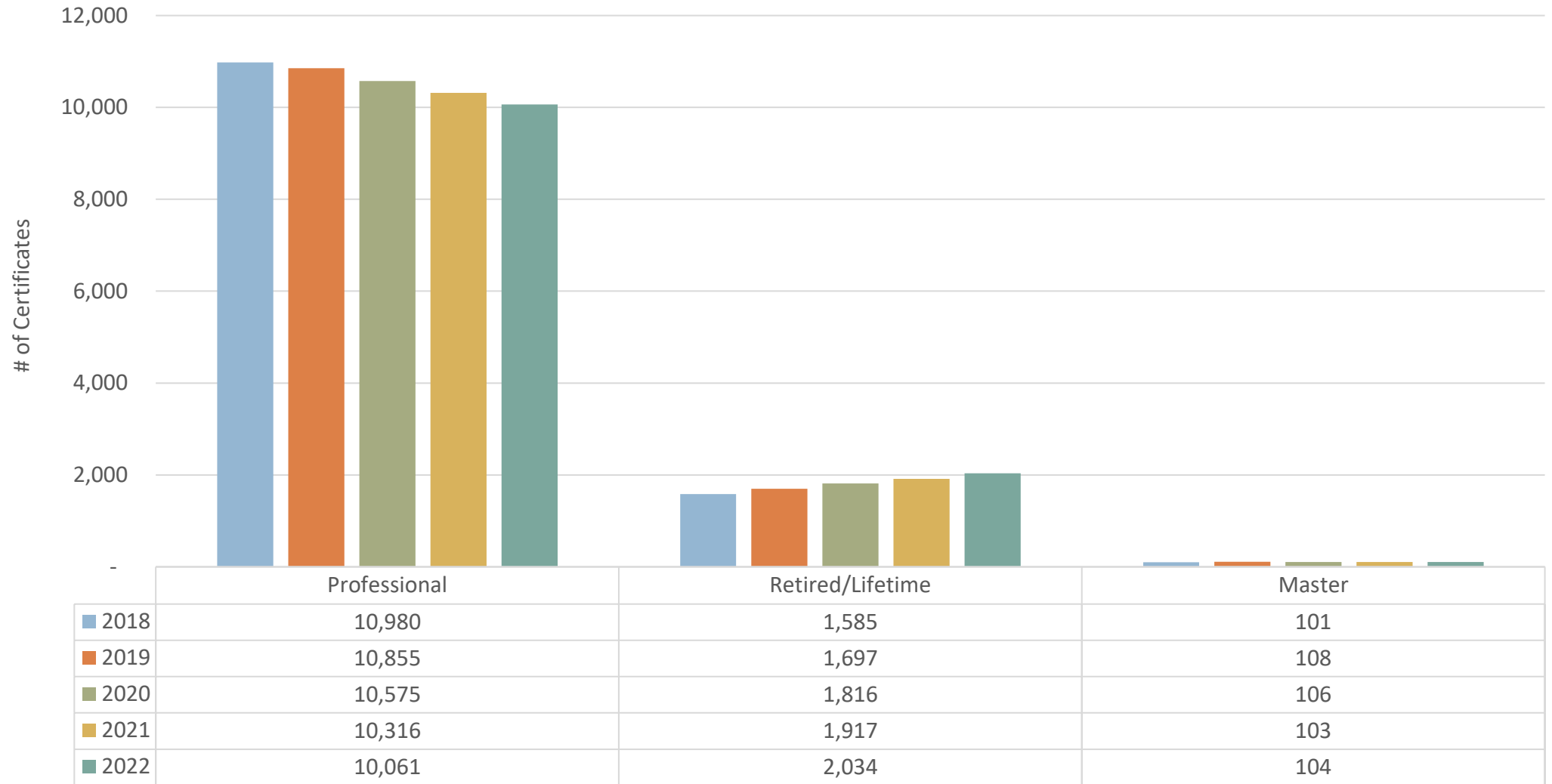
- › Bachelor's or higher degree
- › Approved teacher preparation program
- › Basic Competency Examination (BCE) in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics
- › Alaska studies & multicultural coursework
- › Mandatory training
- › Criminal history report (fingerprint card)

## 4 AAC 12.305

- › Content area examinations (CAE)
- › 2 years of teaching experience
- › Valid for five years; renewable
- › Retired/Lifetime & Master certified teachers have met these requirements, as well



# Professional, Retired/Lifetime, and Master Certificates 2018 – 2022 (January 1 Counts)







# Approved Teacher Preparation Program

- › Historically, included in educational degree program
  - Bachelor's or Master's degree
  - Program of study  
(General & Content Specific Pedagogy, Classroom Management, Lesson Design, Assessment, Classroom Management, etc.)
  - Student Teaching
- › Over time, teacher preparation programs were developed to be independent of degree programs
- › AS 14.20.020 was written before this separation



# Approved Teacher Preparation Program

- › Interstate Agreement on Qualification of Educational Personnel (AS 14.20.620 - .650) since 1970
  - Bachelor's degree
    - › Part of the program
    - › Prior to admission to the program
  - Planned program of study
  - Supervised clinical experience
    - › Traditional (student teaching)
    - › Non-traditional (while employed as educator, if bachelor's degree earned prior to program)
- › Aligned to national standards, state standards, or both  
(Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium [InTASC], Alaska's Beginning Teacher, Culturally-responsive)
- › Are nationally accredited, undergo a rigorous state approval process, or both  
(Teacher Education Accreditation Council [TEAC], National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education [NCATE], Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation [CAEP], or Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation [AAQEP])



# Approved Teacher Preparation Program

## ALASKA PROVIDERS

- › University-based only
  - University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF)
  - University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA)
  - University of Alaska Southeast (UAS)
  - Alaska Pacific University (APU)
- › Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accreditation

## OTHER JURISDICTIONS PROVIDERS

- › University-based
- › Non-traditional providers
  - Teach For America (TFA)
  - American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE)
  - School Districts
  - Educational Agencies
- › National accreditation or rigorous state approval process

# Initial Teacher Certification

Two-Three Year, Out-of-State, Program Enrollment,  
and Re-employment



# Initial Out-of-State

## AS 14.20.015 Recognition of certificates of out-of-state teachers

### REQUIREMENTS

- › Bachelor's degree or higher (transcripts)
- › Valid out-of-state certificate
- › Criminal history report (fingerprint card)
- › Additional requirements
  - Year One: Basic Competency Exam
  - Year Two: Alaska Studies / Alaska Multicultural coursework

### LIMITATIONS

- › Not eligible for tenure
- › Valid for up to three years
- › Not renewable
- › Must qualify for Professional certificate when Initial expires



# Initial Re-employment

AS 14.20.017 Grace period for issuance of regular teacher certificates to previously certificated teachers

## REQUIREMENTS

- › Expired regular Alaska certificate
- › Criminal history report (fingerprint card)
- › Additional requirements
  - All unmet requirements for Professional certification

## LIMITATIONS

- › Not eligible for tenure
- › Valid for one year
- › Not renewable
- › Must qualify for Professional certificate when Initial expires



# Initial Program Enrollment

AS 14.20.022 Subject-matter expert limited teacher certificate

## REQUIREMENTS

- › Sponsored by an Alaska school district
- › District must provide a mentor
- › Holds a bachelor's degree or higher
- › Satisfies testing requirements
- › Enrolls in a teacher preparation program
- › Additional requirements
  - Year One: Evidence of progress in program
  - Year Two:
    - › Complete program
    - › Alaska Studies / Multicultural coursework

## LIMITATIONS

- › Must be assigned to teach in area of expertise
- › Not eligible for tenure
- › Valid for up to three years
- › Not renewable
- › Must qualify for Professional certificate when Initial expires



# Emergency Certification

## AS 14.20.020(b)(2) and 4 AAC 12.401

### REQUIREMENTS

- › Associate degree or equivalent
- › Sponsored by an Alaska school district
- › District must:
  - Describe the nature of the emergency and the effort to avert it
  - Provide a mentor

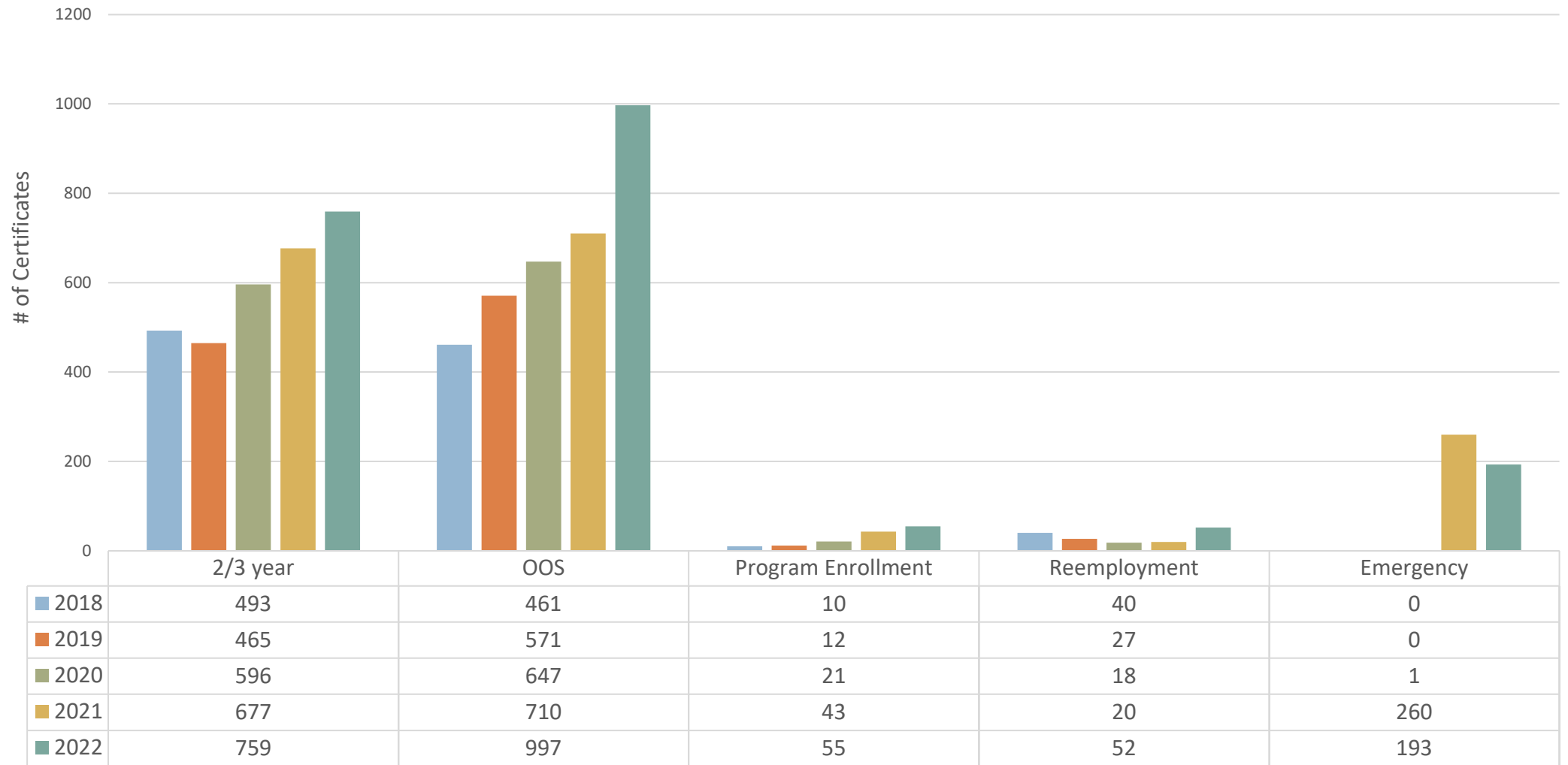
### LIMITATIONS

- › Not eligible for tenure
- › Valid for the school year
- › Not renewable





# Initial & Emergency Teaching Certificates 2018 – 2022 (January 1 Counts)





# Supports for Early Career Teachers

- › Districts have varying levels of support
  - Induction programs
  - Mentors
- › UAF K-12 Outreach
  - Alaska Statewide Mentor Project (ASMP)
  - Educators Rising Alaska

# Limited Certificates

Type M, Type I, and Type W



# Limited Type M

## AS 14.20.025 Limited teacher certificates

### REQUIREMENTS

- › Evidence of instructional skills and subject matter
  - Alaska Native language or culture
  - Military Science (Reserve Officers' Training Corps—ROTC)
  - Vocational or Technical (Career & Technical Education—CTE)
- › Criminal history report through Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) (fingerprint card)
- › Mandatory training

### LIMITATIONS

- › Sponsored by a school district
- › Must be assigned to teach only in area of expertise
- › Valid for five years / renewable



# Limited Type I

4 AAC 12.375

## REQUIREMENTS

- › Sponsored by a school district
- › Enrolled in a teacher preparation / bachelor's degree program
- › Three years of experience as a paraprofessional
- › Expertise in local Alaska Native culture
- › Criminal history report through DPS and FBI (fingerprint card)
- › Mandatory training

## LIMITATIONS

- › Initially, teach only in area of expertise
- › Is given additional responsibilities overtime
- › Must have support from the university and the school district
- › Must have a cooperating teacher and mentor
- › Valid from year to year; must show progress on plan toward bachelor's degree and teacher preparation program

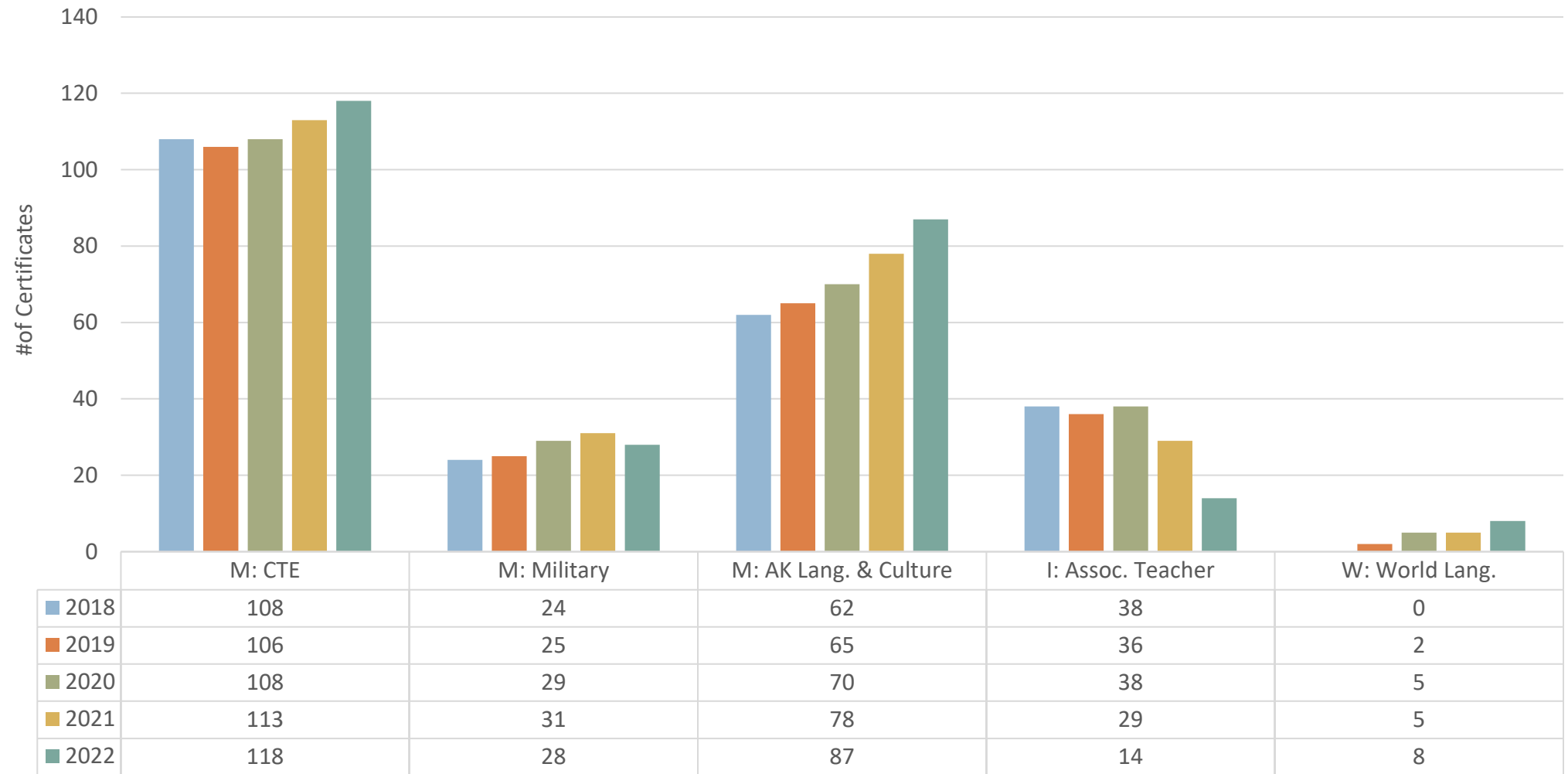


# Moving from Limited to Regular Certification

- › Earn a bachelor's degree
- › Complete a teacher preparation program
- › Satisfy testing requirements
  - Basic Competency Exam (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics)
  - Content area exam



# Limited Certificates 2018 – 2022 (January 1 Counts)



# Substitute Teachers

Short- and Long-Term





# Substitute Teachers

## 4 AAC 18.021

### SHORT-TERM

- › Statutes and regulations do not have minimum requirements for a short-term substitute
- › School districts determine the minimum qualifications
- › Short-term substitutes may substitute teach for up to 20 days
- › Level of responsibility varies depending on the situation and duration of the assignment

### LONG-TERM

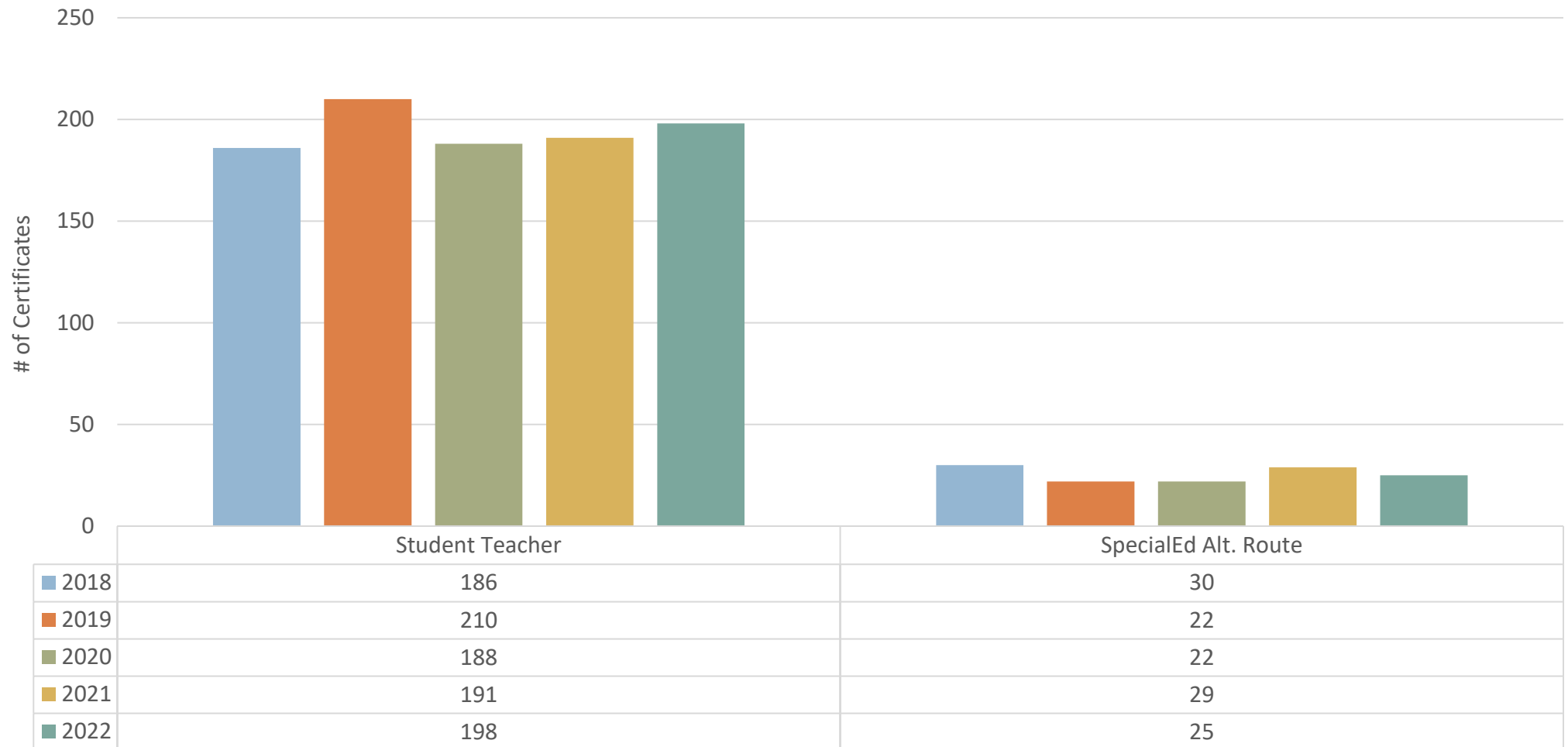
- › Regulations require a long-term substitute to hold a valid teaching certificate or a Retired/Lifetime certificate
- › Long-term substitutes are assigned all the responsibilities of the teacher on leave for as long as needed
- › Most district hire long-term substitutes under provisions of the negotiated agreement

# Teachers in Training

Student Teaching Authorization &  
Special Education Alternative Routes



# Student Teaching & Special Education Alternative Route 2018 – 2022 (January 1 Counts)





## Contact Information

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