



March 7, 2022

Senate Education Committee Hearing – SB 225 and Teacher Certification Laws

Follow-up on Committee Member Comments

Prepared by DEED Staff

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Provide a document that briefly lays out each of the certification types and what they are for.

Refer to the attached document titled “Alaska Teacher Certificate Types.”

Provide how many teachers are employed in the Alaska school system.

Refer to the attached document titled “Alaska Certificated Employees with Teaching Certificates SY 2021-2022.” Counts provided are as of January 1, 2022, and include administrators, teachers, and special service providers.

Provide how many individuals are maintaining their teacher certifications but are not classroom teachers in Alaska. Provide how many of those individuals are employed by the school districts but are not in the classroom.

Employment Status of Individuals Holding an Alaska Teacher Certificate	Count
Teachers Employed in Alaska School Districts	7,372
Administrators & Special Service Providers Employed in Alaska School Districts	1,090
Individuals Not Employed in Alaska School Districts	6,048
Total	14,510

Source: Teacher Certification Database & SY2021-22 Certified Staff Accounting District Reports

Provide a breakdown of the situations in which Emergency Certificates have been issued.

On January 1, 2022, Alaska had 193 active emergency teacher certificates. According to the districts requesting the emergency certificate, the only candidates that were available for their vacant positions did not satisfy one or more of the requirements for Initial teacher certification:

- Bachelor’s degree or higher (4 applicants)
- Approved teacher prep program (76 applicants)
- Basic competency exam (117 applicants)
- Content area exam (118 applicants)

Degree Requirement

Degree attainment	Applicant Count
*Associate’s	4
Bachelor’s	98
Master’s	81
Doctorate’s	10
Total	193

Approved Teacher Preparation Program

Approved Teacher Preparation Program Status	Applicant Count
*Without Prep Program	60
*Enrolled	16
Completed in the United States	22
Completed outside of the United States	95
Total	193

Approved Program Location	Applicant Count
Alaska	6
Florida	1
Iowa	1
Massachusetts	1
Minnesota	2
Montana	1
New York	2
North Dakota	1
Ohio	1
Pennsylvania	2
Texas	1
Utah	1
Vermont	1
Wisconsin	1
Foreign Country Through Transcript Analysis	95
Total	117

Basic Competency Exam

Basic Competency Exam Status	Applicant Count
*Not Taken OR Not Passed	117
Passed	76
Total	193

Content Area Exam

Content Area Exam Status	Applicant Count
*Not Taken OR Not Passed	118
Passed	75
Total	193

Provide the additional information the department prepared but didn't have time to verbally provide.

Micro-credentials

Information regarding micro-credential was provided to the committee in the 2/28/2022 Senate Education Committee hearing follow-up documents from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

Alternative or Non-traditional Teacher Preparation Programs

Refer to the attached document titled "Alternative or Non-traditional Teacher Preparation Programs."

Alaska Teacher Endorsement Information

Endorsements on Alaska's Initial and Professional teacher certificates can only be granted based on the requirements in 4 AAC 12.395 and 4 AAC 12.396.

The following methods are used to determine if an applicant is eligible for an endorsement.

1. Endorsement program completion:

This method requires the completion of a state-approved teacher preparation or endorsement program and passing scores on the endorsement-related content area exam. If an endorsement is completed outside of Alaska, the applicant must be eligible to gain a comparable endorsement or certificate, including any required testing, for that state.

This is the only method to add grade levels to an endorsement.

2. Posted Degree, Major, or Minor:

This method requires completion of at least one of the following degrees in the content or specialist area for which the endorsement is requested:

- a. a doctorate degree;
- b. a master's degree; or
- c. a baccalaureate degree, with a major or posted minor of at least 18 semester hours in the endorsement area requested.

This method is not available for elementary, reading, English as a foreign language, or special education endorsements.

3. Content Area Knowledge & Teaching Experience:

This method requires two years of teaching experience in the content area and passing scores on the endorsement-related content area exam. Only where [content area exam\(s\)](http://education.alaska.gov/teachercertification/contentareaexams) (education.alaska.gov/teachercertification/contentareaexams) have been identified may endorsements be added with this method.

This method is not available for elementary, reading, English as a foreign language, or special education endorsements.

4. Career and Technical (CTE - Teaching): This method requires the following:

- Two years of teaching experience in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) area;
- Six semester hours of coursework focused on classroom management;
- Student assessment and CTE specific teaching strategies; and
- Successful completion of an approved CTE content-specific industry competency exam as approved by the department.

Initial Out-of-State teaching certificates will reflect the endorsements listed on the current, valid out-of-state teaching certificate submitted with the application packet as indicated by AS 14.20.015(c).