

## Introduction

In 1977-1978, the Alabama State Board of Education (ASBE) adopted a very prescriptive set of teacher education program approval and certification standards. Each iteration of the standards adopted since then, while less prescriptive, has demanded more accountability from the institutions that prepare teachers and other school personnel. The standards no longer prescribe specific courses or the minimum number of hours of credit by category. Current standards identify the knowledge and abilities that prospective teachers and instructional support personnel must demonstrate prior to program completion. These standards form the basis for preparation program development and state approval. The process of requiring prospective teachers and administrators to demonstrate greater knowledge and a higher level of ability to use technology to enhance instruction and improve school operations began in 2001, resulted in the ASBE adoption of new standards in March 2002, and required all institutions to document compliance by July 1, 2002. In September 2003, the ASBE adopted revisions of the teacher education and teacher certification standards based on criteria included in The Alabama Model for Identifying Highly Qualified Teachers, developed in response to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB).

On July 13, 2004, the ASBE revised teacher education program approval standards/rules to: (1) better prepare all teachers to teach all students; (2) increase the involvement of P-12 practitioners and arts and sciences faculty in the design and implementation of educator preparation programs; (3) ensure the on-going and sustained involvement of teacher educators in P-12 school settings; (4) enhance field experiences prior to student teaching (internship) and require a full semester of internship; and (5) place greater emphasis on assessment, data-based decision making, and accountability. The ASBE modified program approval standards in April 2005 to require Praxis II content tests as a condition for initial certification in any teaching field or area of instructional support. Passing scores will be set after a one year no fault period.

Institutions are accountable for the on-the-job performance of their recent graduates who are employed in the area(s) for which they were prepared. In 2000, the ASBE began issuing a report card for each teacher preparation institution.

Certificates are issued for teachers at three levels: Class B or baccalaureate, Class A or master's, and Class AA which requires the completion of a planned sixth-year program and may require an educational specialist degree. Instructional support personnel certificates are issued at the Class A and Class AA levels. A state salary matrix, based on years of public school experience and the highest degree earned from a regionally accredited institution, guarantees the same base pay for all teachers. School systems may use local funds to augment the state allocation. Alternative approaches to certification allow superintendents to employ persons with subject matter expertise while they meet requirements for certification. Teacher certification standards were revised by

the ASBE in September 2003, in accordance with NCLB guidelines, to eliminate experience as the sole basis for issuing an alternative approach certificate and to implement a procedure to limit to three years the length of time that a person may be employed on the basis of holding one or a combination of alternative approach certificates.

Alabama retains a high percentage of the teachers and other school personnel prepared in Alabama, but out-of-state school systems rigorously recruit many educators prepared in Alabama. Report card and other data indicate that employers are pleased with the caliber of their new employees. The results of a survey conducted each year in preparation for issuing the higher education report cards, continue to indicate that novice teachers who are recent teacher education program graduates believe themselves to be well prepared for their new roles.

Alabama educators, assisted by business and lay participants, develop a new state course of study for each major discipline every six years. The course of study specifies the minimum content that must be provided for all students in Grades K-12. An extensive assessment program is conducted in those grades. Students must complete a "4 x 4" curriculum (four units each of English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies) and pass a statewide graduation exam to earn a high school diploma.

#### **References and Web Addresses:**

Reference: Salary Schedule for 2005

Web Address: [http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/Teacher Education & Certification/ Publications/ Documents](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/Teacher%20Education%20&%20Certification/Publications/Documents)

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Reference: General Teacher Certification Information

Web Address: [http://www.alsde.edu/ Special Links](http://www.alsde.edu/Special%20Links)

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Reference: Higher Education Report Cards

Web Address: [http://www.alsde.edu/ Sections/ Teacher Education & Certification](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/Teacher%20Education%20&%20Certification)

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Reference: Teacher Certification Standards

Web Address: [http://www.alsde.edu/ Sections/ Teacher Education & Certification/ Publications/ Documents](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/Teacher%20Education%20&%20Certification/Publications/Documents)

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Reference: Courses of Study

Web  
Address: [http://www.alsde.edu/ Special Links](http://www.alsde.edu/Special Links)

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Reference: Highly Qualified Teachers

Web  
Address: [http://www.alsde.edu/ Special Links](http://www.alsde.edu/Special Links)

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Reference: Updated Administrative Code Chapter 290-3-3 Teacher Education Rules

Web  
Address: [http://www.alsde.edu/ Sections/ Teacher Education & Certification/ Publications/ Documents](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/Teacher Education & Certification/Publications/Documents)

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## Types of Standards

### Section II.a

- 1) Has the state developed standards that prospective teachers must meet in order to attain initial teacher certification or licensure?

Yes

Description:

Prospective teachers must (1) complete a program at a regionally accredited Alabama institution of higher education that was deemed to meet program approval standards set by the State Board of Education, (2) enter through an alternative approach, or (3) enter through a reciprocity option.

Please provide references and web addresses. Those provided are listed below.

Category or  
Type: Approaches to Certification

Reference:

Web  
Address: [http://www.alsde.edu/ Sections/ Teacher Education & Certification/ Publications/ Documents/ Updated Administrative Code Chapter 290-3-3 Teacher Education Rules AND Teacher Certification Rules \(.02 Approaches to Certification\)](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/Teacher Education & Certification/Publications/Documents/Updated Administrative Code Chapter 290-3-3 Teacher Education Rules AND Teacher Certification Rules (.02 Approaches to Certification))

Description: Updated Administrative Code Chapter 290-3-3 Teacher Education Rules; and Standards for Certification

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2) Is there a unique, overarching set of teacher standards that currently applies to all teaching fields and grade levels?

Yes

Description:

Professional Studies standards are applicable to all programs leading to Class B (bachelor's level) and Alternative Class A (master's level) Professional Educator certification.

Please provide the standard types along with references and web addresses for each. Those provided are listed below.

Category or Type: Professional Studies Standards

Reference:

Web Address: [http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/Teacher Education & Certification/ Publications/ Documents/ Updated Administrative Code Chapter 290-3-3 Teacher Education Rules, .04 Professional Studies, Basic Programs](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/TeacherEducation&Certification/Publications/Documents/UpdatedAdministrativeCodeChapter290-3-3TeacherEducationRules,.04ProfessionalStudies,BasicPrograms)

Description: Professional Studies standards are applicable to all Class B (bachelor's degree level) and Alternative Class A (master's level) Professional Educator programs.

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3) Are there distinct state standards for elementary education?

Yes

Please provide the standard type and range, descriptive detail, references and web address for each. Standards provided are listed below.

Category or Type: Elementary Education Standards

Reference:

Web Address: [http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/Teacher Education & Certification/ Publications/ Documents/ Updated Administrative Code Chapter 290-3-3 Teacher Education Rules \(.06\)](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/TeacherEducation&Certification/Publications/Documents/UpdatedAdministrativeCodeChapter290-3-3TeacherEducationRules(.06))

Description: In addition to documenting compliance with Standards .02(2) General Studies, .02(4) Field Experiences and Clinical Practice (Internships), and .04 Professional Studies, Basic Programs, programs in Elementary

Education must document compliance with Standard .06, Elementary Education (Grades K-6).

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- 4) Are there distinct state teacher standards for early elementary education (e.g., grades K-3)?

Yes

Please provide the standard type and range, descriptive detail, references and web address for each. Standards provided are listed below.

Category or Type: Early Childhood Education Standards

Reference:

Web Address: [http://www.alsde.edu/ Sections/ Teacher Education & Certification/ Publications/ Documents/ Updated Administrative Code Chapter 290-3-3 Teacher Education Rules \(.05\)](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/TeacherEducation&Certification/Publications/Documents/UpdatedAdministrativeCodeChapter290-3-3TeacherEducationRules(.05))

Description: In addition to documenting compliance with Standards .02(2) General Studies, .02(4) Field Experiences and Clinical Practice (Internships), and .04 Professional Studies, Basic Programs, programs in Early Childhood Education must document compliance with Standard .05, Early Childhood Education (Grades P-3).

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- 5) Are there distinct state teacher standards for upper elementary education (e.g., grades 4-6)?

No

Please provide the standard type and range, descriptive detail, references and web address for each. Standards provided are listed below.

NA

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- 6) Are there distinct state teacher standards for middle grades education?

Yes

Please provide the standard type and range, descriptive detail, references and web address for each. Standards provided are listed below.

Category or Type:

Reference:

Web Address:

Description: NA

Category or Type: Middle-Level Teaching Options

Reference:

Web Address: [http://www.alsde.edu/ Sections/ Teacher Education & Certification/ Publications/ Documents/ Updated Administrative Code Chapter 290-3-3 Teacher Education Rules \(.07\)](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/TeacherEducation&Certification/Publications/Documents/UpdatedAdministrativeCodeChapter290-3-3/TeacherEducationRules(.07))

Description: In addition to meeting the rules in .02(2) General Studies, .02(4) Field Experiences and Clinical Practice (Internships), and .04 Professional Studies, Basic Programs, Middle-Level programs must document compliance with Standard .07, Middle Level Options (Grades 4-8).

7) Are there distinct state teacher standards for secondary education?

Yes

Please provide the standard type and range, descriptive detail, references and web address for each. Standards provided are listed below.

Category or Type: Secondary Standards

Reference:

Web Address: [http://www.alsde.edu/ Sections/ Teacher Education & Certification/ Publications/ Documents/ Updated Administrative Code Chapter 290-3-3 Teacher Education Rules \(.08 through .29\)](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/TeacherEducation&Certification/Publications/Documents/UpdatedAdministrativeCodeChapter290-3-3/TeacherEducationRules(.08through.29))

Description: In addition to documenting compliance with Standards .02(2) General Studies, .02(4) Field Experiences and Clinical Practice (Internships), and .04 Professional Studies, Basic Programs, programs in Secondary Education must document compliance with Standard .08, Secondary Teaching Options (Grades 6-12) and the standards unique to the specific teaching field (.09 through .29).

8) Please specify where there are state teacher standards for the following specific fields.

Field	All Levels	Grades K-3	Grades 4-6	Middle Grades	Secondary Grades
Arts	✓				
Bilingual Education, ESL	✓				

Early Childhood Education		✓			
English/Language Arts				✓	✓
Languages Other Than English	✓			✓	✓
Mathematics				✓	✓
Science				✓	✓
Social Studies				✓	✓
Special Education	✓	✓			✓
Technology in Teaching					
Vocation/Technical Education					✓
Collaborative Teacher (6-12), Special Education		✓	✓		
Driver and Traffic Safety Education					✓
Health Education					✓
Physical Education	✓				

9) Please specify and provide documentation and references for any fields not listed in question 8 above.

State-specific fields already provided are listed below.

Category or  
Type:

Reference:

Web Address:

Description: NA

Category or  
Type: Health Education

Reference:

Web Address: [www.alsde.edu/ Sections/ Teacher Education & Certification/](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/Teacher%20Education%20&%20Certification/)

[Publications/ Documents/ Rules for Preparing Educators](#)

Description: Standard .12

Category or Type: Driver and Traffic Safety Education

Reference:

Web Address: [www.alsde.edu/ Sections/ Teacher Education & Certification/ Publications/ Documents/ Rules for Preparing Educators](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/TeacherEducation&Certification/Publications/Documents/RulesforPreparingEducators)

Description: Standard .09

Category or Type: Collaborative Teacher (6-12), Special Education

Reference:

Web Address: [www.alsde.edu/ Sections/ Teacher Education & Certification/ Publications/ Documents/ Updated Administrative Code Chapter 290-3-3 Teacher Education Rules](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/TeacherEducation&Certification/Publications/Documents/UpdatedAdministrativeCodeChapter290-3-3TeacherEducationRules)

Description: Standards .34 and .36

Category or Type: Physical Education

Reference:

Web Address: [www.alsde.edu/ Sections/ Teacher Education & Certification/ Publications/ Documents/ Rules for Preparing Educators](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/TeacherEducation&Certification/Publications/Documents/RulesforPreparingEducators)

Description: Standard .33

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## Policy, Process, and Status

### Section II.b

1) Has the state established content standards for K-12 students?

Yes

Description:

The state provides a course of study for each discipline taught in Grades K-12. Each course of study specifies the content standards for all courses and thus for all students.

Please provide references and web addresses (if any). Those provided are listed below.

Reference: State Courses of Study

Web Address: [http://www.alsde.edu/ Special Links/ Courses of Study](http://www.alsde.edu/Special Links/Courses of Study)

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- 2) Has the state developed standards that prospective teachers must meet in order to attain initial teacher certification or licensure?

Yes

Description:

To earn certification through a traditional approach, prospective teachers must complete an approved program. Completion of an approved program requires demonstration of the knowledge and abilities prescribed in program approval standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

Please provide references and web addresses (if any). Those provided are listed below.

Reference: Teacher Education Program Approval Standards

Web Address: [http://www.alsde.edu/ Sections/ Teacher Education & Certification/ Publications/ Documents/ Updated Administrative Code Chapter 290-3-3 Teacher Education Rules](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/Teacher Education & Certification/Publications/ Documents/ Updated Administrative Code Chapter 290-3-3 Teacher Education Rules)

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- 3) Are plans currently being formulated to link, align, or coordinate teacher certification or licensure standards with state content standards for students?

Yes

Description:

Teacher education program approval standards require prospective teachers to demonstrate knowledge of the content of the state course(s) of study applicable to the discipline(s) they are preparing to teach.

Please provide references and web addresses (if any). Those provided are listed below.

Reference: Professional Studies Standards

Web Address: [http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/ Teacher Education & Certification/ Publications/ Documents/ Updated Administrative Code Chapter 290-3-3 Teacher Education Rules \[.04 Professional Studies, Basic Programs; \(2\)\(a\)1.\(iii\) and \(g\)1.\(i\) and 2.\(i\)\]](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/Teacher Education & Certification/Publications/ Documents/ Updated Administrative Code Chapter 290-3-3 Teacher Education Rules [.04 Professional Studies, Basic Programs; (2)(a)1.(iii) and (g)1.(i) and 2.(i)])

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- 4) Have one or more linkage, alignment, or coordination committees or working groups met, but not yet produced a report or a set of recommendations?

No

Description:

NA

Please provide references and web addresses (if any). Those provided are listed below. To add, delete or modify them press "Edit List".

NA

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- 5) Has a report or set of recommendations been developed to address linkage, alignment, or coordination between teacher certification or licensure requirements and state content standards for students?

Yes

Description:

See response to #3, above.

Please provide references and web addresses (if any). Those provided are listed below.

Reference: See Web Address for #3, above.

Web Address:

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- 6) Has the state established a policy that links, aligns, or coordinates teacher certification or licensure standards with state content standards for students?

Yes

Description:

See response to #3, above.

Please provide references and web addresses (if any). Those provided are listed below.

Reference: See Web Address for #3, above.

Web Address:

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- 7) Has a date been set by which the recommendations will be implemented?

Yes

2/1/1991

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- 8) Has an implementation group been established?

Yes

Description:

The course of study applicable to each discipline is revised on a six-year cycle. Committees are appointed as needed to maintain that cycle. Textbooks for each discipline are adopted on a similar cycle. Both the courses of study and the state textbook lists are approved by the State Board of Education. Prospective teachers are expected to have knowledge of and be able to follow the state course of study and use current textbooks for the discipline they are preparing to teach.

Web Address:

[www.alsde.edu/ Sections/ Teacher Education & Certification/ Publications/ Documents/ Updated Administrative Code Chapter 290-3-3 Teacher Education Rules \[.04 Professional Studies, Basic Programs; \(2\)\(a\)1.\(iii\) and \(g\)1.\(i\) and 2.\(i\)](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/Teacher%20Education%20&%20Certification/Publications/Documents/Updated%20Administrative%20Code%20Chapter%20290-3-3%20Teacher%20Education%20Rules%20[.04%20Professional%20Studies,%20Basic%20Programs;%20(2)(a)1.(iii)%20and%20(g)1.(i)%20and%202.(i))

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- 9) Are other steps being taken to develop or implement standards and align teacher preparation, certification or licensure standards with content standards?

Yes

Description:

When the courses of study are updated, appropriate information is provided to the teacher education institutions.

Please provide references and web addresses (if any). Those provided are listed below.

NA

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## Number Certified or Licensed

### Section III.b

- 1) Total number of persons receiving initial certification or licensure in the state during this academic year (2003-2004).

4,063

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- 2) Total number of persons receiving initial certification or licensure in the state who completed their teacher preparation program in another state.

861

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# Type A Certificates

## Section 1.a

### [Class B Professional Educator](#)

## Class B Professional Educator

1) Certificate Name:

Class B Professional Educator

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2) Is this the initial certificate?

Yes

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3) Is this a permanent certificate?

No

Please provide any amplifying information below. Include, if not permanent, the duration of the certificate.

5 years

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4) Is this certificate renewable?

Yes

Please provide any amplifying information below. Include, if renewable, the number of times the certificate may be renewed.

There is no limit on the number of times that the certificate may be renewed. Renewal options include (1) 3 years of satisfactory education experience and either 5 allowable CEUs, which equate to 50 clock hours of professional development, or 3 semester hours of allowable credit; or (2) 5 allowable CEUs and 3 semester hours of allowable credit; or (3) 6 semester hours of allowable credit.

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5) Is a bachelor's degree required?

Yes

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6) Is a bachelor's degree *in education* required?

No

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7) Is a bachelor's degree in a subject area or academic content area required?

Yes

Please describe which certification areas require a subject-specific academic content degree.

Persons recommended after June 30, 2005, for certification in a middle/secondary or P-12 teaching field (except driver and traffic safety education, health education, an area of career technical education, or physical education) must meet the requirements for an academic major in the teaching field for which certification is sought.

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8) Are there other degree requirements?

Yes

Please describe those other degree requirements.

The degree must be earned at a regionally accredited college or university.

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9) Will transcript analysis (for degrees from non-U.S. postsecondary institutions) be accepted?

Yes

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10) Is a state approved teacher education program required?

Yes

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11) Are pedagogy or professional knowledge classes required?

Yes

Please describe the required pedagogy or professional knowledge classes.

No specific courses are required. Rather, the State Board of Education specifies the knowledge and abilities that must be demonstrated prior to program completion. Each college/university decides what courses to require in order to provide the necessary content. Proposed courses and other required program components are reviewed as part of the program approval process. Changes are made as needed to verify compliance with the standards.

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12) Is there a credit hour requirement for general and/or professional education coursework?

No

Please describe the required coursework.

State standards do not prescribe credit hours for general and/or professional education coursework. However, with regard to general studies, "The teacher education unit shall ensure that candidates have completed general studies courses and experiences. The general studies shall include courses and/or experiences in the humanities, social science, mathematics, and science. Individuals in the Class B programs in early childhood education,

elementary education, early childhood special education, collaborative teacher (K-6), or collaborative teacher (6-12) shall have earned at least 12 semester hours of acceptable credit in each of the following areas: English language arts, mathematics, science, and social science." [www.alsde.edu/ Sections/ Teacher Education & Certification/ Publications/ Documents/ Rules for Preparing Educators, (2) on page 246. The "4x12" requirement is applicable to persons recommended for certification after June 30, 2005.]

With regard to professional education coursework, each institution decides what courses to require but the institution must document compliance with state knowledge and ability standards.

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- 13) Is there a grade point average (GPA) requirement for general and/or professional education coursework?

Yes

Please describe the GPA requirement.

Program admission criteria specify three separate GPA calculations: a 2.5 GPA overall, a 2.5 GPA in professional studies, and a 2.5 GPA in the teaching field.

Program completion criteria specify three separate GPA calculations: a 2.5 GPA overall, a 2.5 GPA in the teaching field, and a 2.5 GPA in professional studies with no grade below "C" in professional studies.

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- 14) Are tests or assessments required?

Yes

Please describe the required tests or assessments.

Through January 2002, the state required a passing score on the Alabama Basic Skills Test (ABST) for admission to a Class B Professional Educator teacher education program, as well as a passing score on a test designed by the preparatory institution for program completion.

Effective January 1, 2003, passing the Alabama Prospective Teacher Test is a prerequisite for initial certification.

Effective April 14, 2005, taking the appropriate Praxis II content test is a condition for initial certification in any teaching field for persons who complete their preparation program from that date through April 13, 2006. Following a one-year "no fault" period through April 13, 2006, earning a passing score on the appropriate Praxis II content test will be a condition for initial certification in any teaching field.

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- 15) Are performance assessments (such as portfolios of assessment center activities) required?

No

Please describe all required performance assessments.

Each institution must assess the knowledge and abilities of each candidate prior to recommending the candidate for certification. Institutions are held accountable for the performance of their recent graduates.

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16) Is there a recency of credit requirement?

No

Please explain the timeline and credit and/or coursework requirements.

NA

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17) Are teachers accepted based on reciprocal agreements (reciprocity agreements) with other states?

Yes

Please indicate which states have reciprocity agreements in place. Those selected are listed below.

Alaska

Arizona

Arkansas

Colorado

Connecticut

Delaware

District of Columbia

Florida

Georgia

Guam

Hawaii

Idaho

Illinois

Indiana

Kansas

Kentucky

Louisiana

Maine

Maryland

Massachusetts

Michigan

Mississippi

Montana

Nebraska

Nevada

New Hampshire

New Jersey

New Mexico

New York  
North Carolina  
North Dakota  
Ohio  
Oklahoma  
Oregon  
Pennsylvania  
Rhode Island  
South Carolina  
Tennessee  
Texas  
Utah  
Vermont  
Virginia  
Washington  
West Virginia  
Wyoming

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18) Is passing state prescribed course work and/or written assignments required?

Yes

Please describe the required course work and assignments. Include GPA requirements, if any.

See responses to #11 and 13, above.

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19) Is completion of preservice teaching (student teaching) under clinical supervision required?

Yes

Please describe the nature and amount of required student teaching.

"The internships in Class B and Alternative Class A programs shall be full-time in the schools for a full semester (the unit should use its discretion concerning days designated for final examinations), which should not be limited to one classroom or grade level, with experiences of the intern progressing to the full responsibilities of the teacher for at least 20 full days including at least 10 consecutive days. (Exceptions may be requested for placements in schools operating on nontraditional schedules.) For candidates who are seeking certification in two or more distinct teaching fields, an additional internship(s) shall be required (e.g., physical education and biology). For candidates who are seeking certification in two or more related fields (e.g., chemistry and physics), the internship may be divided between the two teaching fields, if applicable. For P-12 programs, the internship shall be divided between early childhood/elementary and middle/secondary grades. For early childhood programs, the internship shall include a pre-school or kindergarten placement unless substantial field experiences were completed at those levels. For elementary education programs, the internship shall include upper and lower elementary-level placements unless substantial field experiences were completed at both levels. In

extenuating circumstances, the head of the unit may request a waiver from the State Superintendent of Education for the requirement to divide the internship." [See [www.alsde.edu/ Sections/ Teacher Education & Certification/ Publications/ Documents/ Rules for Preparing Educators, \(g\)1. on page 248.](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/TeacherEducation&Certification/Publications/Documents/RulesforPreparingEducators,(g)1.onpage248.)]

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20) Is an individual, supervised professional development program (including coursework, mentoring, and clinical supervision of teaching) required?

No

Please describe the course work and/or GPA requirements, mentoring and supervised teaching activity requirements.

NA

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21) Of fingerprinting, background check or police record examination, which are required?

FingerPrinting: Yes

Background check: Yes

Police record examination: No

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22) Is United States citizenship required?

No

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23) Please provide any additional comments, exceptions and explanations below.

Alabama provides a second Level I (first) certificate program, called the Alternative Class A level program. It is a state-approved, MAT-type, college/university-based, rigorous preparation program that is more similar to the Class B Professional Educator program than to Alabama's other alternative approaches to certification. Information about that program is summarized in Section VII of this Title II report and at [www.alsde.edu/ Sections/ Teacher Education & Certification/ Publications/ Documents/ Rules for Preparing Educators \(Standard .44\)](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/TeacherEducation&Certification/Publications/Documents/RulesforPreparingEducators(Standard.44)).

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## **Type B Certificates**

### **Section 1.b**

[Class A Professional Educator](#)

### **Class A Professional Educator**

1) Certificate Name:  
Class A Professional Educator

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2) Is this the initial certificate?  
No

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3) Does the state have a Type A certificate?  
Yes

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4) Is this a permanent certificate?  
No  
Please provide any amplifying information below. Include, if not permanent, the duration of the certificate.  
5 years

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5) Is this certificate renewable?  
Yes  
Please provide any amplifying information below. Include, if renewable, the number of times the certificate may be renewed.  
There is no limit on the number of times that the certificate may be renewed. Renewal options include (1) 3 years of satisfactory education experience and either 5 allowable CEUs, which equate to 50 clock hours of professional development, or 3 semester hours of allowable credit; or (2) 5 allowable CEUs and 3 semester hours of allowable credit; or (3) 6 semester hours of allowable credit.

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6) Is a bachelor's degree required?  
Yes

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7) Is a bachelor's degree *in education* required?  
No

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8) Is a bachelor's degree in a subject area or academic content area required?  
No  
Please describe which certification areas require a subject-specific academic content degree.  
NA

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9) Is a master's or other post-baccalaureate program or coursework in professional education required?

Yes

Please describe those other degree requirements.

The institution must have regional accreditation to provide the master's degree and the program must meet the institution's requirements for a master's degree. At least one-third of the courses required in the program must be teaching field courses. Survey of special education coursework shall be required unless previously completed. In addition, the courses required by the institution must meet technology standards adopted by the State Board of Education in March 2002.

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10) Is a state approved teacher education program required?

Yes

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11) Are pedagogy or professional knowledge classes required?

Yes

Please describe the required pedagogy or professional knowledge classes.

See response to #9, above.

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12) Is professional employment as a teacher required?

No

Please describe the required terms of employment.

NA

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13) Is there a credit hour requirement for general and/or professional education coursework?

No

Please describe the required coursework.

NA

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14) Is there a grade point average (GPA) requirement for general and/or professional education coursework?

Yes

Please describe the GPA requirement.

Eligibility for certification requires at least a 3.0 GPA on courses in the state-approved program.

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15) Are tests or assessments required?

Yes

Please describe the required tests or assessments.

The candidate must earn a passing score on a comprehensive written examination designed by the institution to cover the content of the curriculum.

Effective April 14, 2005, taking the appropriate Praxis II content test is a condition for initial certification in any teaching field for persons who complete their preparation program from that date through April 13, 2006. Following a one-year "no fault" period through April 13, 2006, earning a passing score on the appropriate Praxis II content test will be a condition for initial certification in any teaching field.

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16) Are performance assessments (such as portfolios of assessment center activities) required?

No

Please describe all required performance assessments.

NA

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17) Is there a recency of credit requirement?

No

Please explain the timeline and credit and/or coursework requirements.

NA

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18) Are teachers accepted based on reciprocal agreements (reciprocity agreements) with other states?

Yes

Please indicate which states have reciprocity agreements in place. Those selected are listed below.

Alaska

Arizona

Arkansas

Colorado

Connecticut

Delaware

District of Columbia

Florida

Georgia

Guam

Hawaii

Idaho  
Illinois  
Indiana  
Kansas  
Kentucky  
Louisiana  
Maine  
Maryland  
Massachusetts  
Michigan  
Mississippi  
Montana  
Nebraska  
Nevada  
New Hampshire  
New Jersey  
New Mexico  
New York  
North Carolina  
North Dakota  
Ohio  
Oklahoma  
Oregon  
Pennsylvania  
Rhode Island  
South Carolina  
Tennessee  
Texas  
Utah  
Vermont  
Virginia  
Washington  
West Virginia  
Wyoming

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19) Is passing state prescribed course work and/or written assignments required?

Yes

Please describe the required course work and assignments. Include GPA requirements, if any.

See response to #9, above.

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20) Is completion of preservice teaching (student teaching) under clinical supervision required?

Yes

Please describe the nature and amount of required student teaching.

Completion of preservice teaching is not required for persons earning a Level II (second) certificate in the same teaching field for which Level I certification is held. However, certification in Adult Education (AE), English as a Second Language (ESL), and Reading Specialist (RS) begins at the Class A Professional Educator level, based on Class B Professional Educator certification in any teaching field. The AE, ESL, and RS programs require an internship of the equivalent of a full semester. A person may enroll in a Class A special education program based on any Class B certificate, but a practicum is required for a person who does not have Class B certification in special education.

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- 21) Is an individual, supervised professional development program (including coursework, mentoring, and clinical supervision of teaching) required?

No

Please describe the course work and/or GPA requirements, mentoring and supervised teaching activity requirements.

NA

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- 22) Of fingerprinting, background check or police record examination, which are required?

FingerPrinting: Yes

Background check: Yes

Police record examination: No

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- 23) Is United States citizenship required?

No

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- 24) Please provide any additional comments, exceptions and explanations below.

With regard to Questions 6-9, above, in Alabama, the Class A Professional Educator (Level II, second) certificate is a master's degree level program. Requirements for admission include baccalaureate-level professional educator certification in the teaching field for which Class A certification is sought except in Adult Education, English as a Second Language, Reading Specialist, and special education. Thus, a bachelor's degree is required for program admission and a master's degree is required for completion of a Class A program.

With regard to Question 22, above, fingerprinting and a background check are required of persons who have not previously satisfied that requirement.

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## Type C Certificates

## Section 1.d

### Class AA Professional Educator

## Class AA Professional Educator

1) Certificate Name:

Class AA Professional Educator

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2) Is this the initial certificate?

No

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3) Does the state have a Type B certificate?

Yes

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4) Is this a permanent certificate?

No

Please provide any amplifying information below. Include, if not permanent, the duration of the certificate.

5 years

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5) Is this certificate renewable?

Yes

Please provide any amplifying information below. Include, if renewable, the number of times the certificate may be renewed.

There is no limit on the number of times the certificate may be renewed. Renewal options include (1) 3 years of satisfactory education experience and either 5 allowable CEUs, which equate to 50 clock hours of professional development, or 3 semester hours of allowable credit; or (2) 5 allowable CEUs and 3 semester hours of allowable credit; or (3) 6 semester hours of allowable credit.

---

6) Is a bachelor's degree required?

Yes

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7) Is a bachelor's degree *in education* required?

No

---

8) Is a bachelor's degree in a subject area or academic content area required?

No

Please describe which certification areas require a subject-specific academic content degree.

NA

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9) Is a master's or other post-baccalaureate program or coursework in professional education required?

Yes

Please describe those other degree requirements.

The institution must have regional accreditation to provide sixth-year programs and the program of study leading to completion of a Class AA program must meet the institution's requirements at that level. At least one-third of the courses required in the program must be teaching field courses. Survey of special education coursework shall be required unless previously completed.

---

10) Is a state approved teacher education program required?

Yes

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11) Is professional employment as a teacher required?

No

Please describe the required terms of employment.

NA

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12) Is professional development or continuing education experience required?

Yes

Please describe this requirement.

All Alabama teachers are required to participate in professional development experiences.

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13) Is passing National Board of Professional Teaching Standards required?

No

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14) Are there any other requirements?

Yes

Please describe the requirements.

A practicum is required if a person is completing her/his first program in special education. Program completion requirements applicable to all candidates include a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses in the state-approved program and a passing score on a comprehensive written examination designed by the institution to cover the content of the curriculum.

---

15) Please provide any additional comments, exceptions and explanations below.

With regard to Questions 6-9, above, in Alabama, the Class AA Professional Educator (Level II, third) certificate is a planned sixth-year program that may require the completion of an education specialist degree, at the discretion of the institution. Requirements for admission include master's level (Class A) certification in the same teaching field for which Class AA certification is sought, except in special education. Thus, both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from a regionally accredited institution are required for admission to the Class AA program and the completion of a sixth-year program is required for Class AA certification.

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## Alternative Routes

### Section VII.a

1) Has the state approved one or more alternative routes to certification? (Descriptions are covered in Section VII.b.)

Yes

Please provide document references and/or web addresses. Those provided are listed below.

Reference: Alternative Approaches to Alabama Certification

Web Address: [http://www.alsde.edu/ Special Links/ General Teacher Certification Information \(Summary of the Alternative Baccalaureate-level Certificate, Summary of the Special Alternative \[master's level\] Certificate, and Summary of the Preliminary Certificate](http://www.alsde.edu/Special Links/General Teacher Certification Information (Summary of the Alternative Baccalaureate-level Certificate, Summary of the Special Alternative [master's level] Certificate, and Summary of the Preliminary Certificate)

---

2) Has the state approved alternative routes to certification, but is not currently implementing them?

No

Please provide document references and/or web addresses. Those provided are listed below.

NA

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3) Is the state considering or has the state proposed alternative routes to certification?

No

Please provide document references and/or web addresses. Those provided are listed below.

NA

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## Section VII.b

[Alternative Class A \[Master's Level\]](#)

[Baccalaureate Level](#)

[Preliminary](#)

### Alternative Class A [Master's Level]

1) Alternative route or program name.

Alternative Class A [Master's Level]

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2) What kind of person, with what qualifications, is recruited for this alternative route or program.

Information about this route to certification is provided to persons who inquire about routes to certification and who have at least a baccalaureate from a regionally accredited institution with a minimum 2.5 GPA and a major in the field for which certification is sought or as many hours in the teaching field as the institution requires in the teaching field of the state-approved undergraduate-level teacher education program. General studies courses in the bachelor's degree program must have included humanities, social sciences, science and mathematics. Persons seeking certification in Early Childhood Education or Elementary Education must have earned credit for three courses in mathematics and four courses in science.

NOTE: Persons recommended for certification after June 30, 2005, must meet NCLB-based requirements adopted by the Alabama Board of Education on September 11, 2003. For example, rather than having three mathematics and four science courses, persons seeking admission to an Alternative Master's Level program in early childhood education, elementary education, early childhood special education, or collaborative teacher (K-6 or 6-12) will be required to have earned 12 semester hours of credit in each of four areas -- English language arts, mathematics, science, and social science. Similarly, rather than having as many hours in a subject (mathematics, for example) as the institution requires in its undergraduate teacher education program in that subject, the applicant for admission must have an academic major in mathematics or at least 32 semester hours in mathematics with at least 19 of those hours at the upper division level.

---

3) Please describe the selection process.

The college or university providing the program determines compliance with program admission criteria. A local education agency superintendent may request an alternative route certificate in order to employ a person who has been admitted to the program. A person may be employed for up to three years while enrolled in the alternative route program. The university is held accountable for the performance of candidates recommended for certification based on completion of the program.

---

4) Describe the program of study.

The program must meet the college or university's requirements for earning a master's degree. The program must include study in curriculum and teaching; professional studies; special education; technology; evaluation of teaching and learning; and reading. The program must also include field experiences in a wide variety of school settings. At least one-third of the program hours must be in the teaching field (e.g., mathematics courses for a person pursuing certification in mathematics).

---

5) Is practice teaching required?

Yes

Total Hours: NA

Description:

The program requires a full-time internship (student teaching placement) "in the schools for a full semester (the unit should use its discretion concerning days designated for final examinations), which should not be limited to one classroom or grade level, with experiences of the intern progressing to the full responsibilities of the teacher for at least 20 days including at least 10 consecutive days. (Exceptions may be requested for placements in schools operating on nontraditional schedules.) For candidates who are seeking certification in two or more distinct fields, an additional internship(s) shall be required (e.g., physical education and biology). For candidates who are seeking certification in two or more related fields (e.g., chemistry and physics), the internship may be divided between the two teaching fields, if applicable. For P-12 programs, the internship shall be divided between early childhood/elementary and secondary grades. For early childhood programs, the internship must include a pre-school or kindergarten placement unless substantial field experiences were completed at those levels. For elementary education programs, the internship must include upper and lower elementary-level placements unless substantial field experiences were completed at both levels. In extenuating circumstances, the head of the unit may request a waiver from the State Superintendent for the requirement to divide internship." In addition, "The head of the unit may request from the State Superintendent a waiver of the internship, except in Educational Administration, based on at least one full year of experience at the level(s) and in the teaching field or instructional support area. Accompanying the request for a waiver from the unit head shall be written evidence that a unit representative has observed the candidate on at least two occurrences to assess knowledge, skills, and dispositions for helping all student learn.

---

6) Are assessments required, other than those required for initial licensure or certification?

No

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7) Must alternative route completers take regular state assessments?

Yes

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8) Is this program supported by a private organization (such as Teach for America)?

No

Please Specify

NA

---

9) Who administers the program (e.g. the state, an institution of higher education, a district, a non-profit organization)?

The program is administered by the State Department of Education. A prospective teacher must meet master's degree and approved program requirements of the college or university where she or he enrolls. The institution is held accountable for the performance of candidates recommended for certification.

---

10) Please select those institutions offering this alternative route.

NA

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## **Baccalaureate Level**

1) Alternative route or program name.

Baccalaureate Level

---

2) What kind of person, with what qualifications, is recruited for this alternative route or program.

Information about this route to certification is provided to persons who inquire about routes to earning teacher certification. Eligibility criteria include at least a baccalaureate from a regionally accredited institution and a major in the field for which certification is sought or 48 semester hours in the field or related to the field for which certification is sought or 24 months of work experience related to the field for which certification is sought. (Note: On September 11, 2003, in response to NCLB guidelines, the Alabama State Board of Education eliminated experience as the sole basis for awarding an initial Alternative

Baccalaureate-level certificate.) Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education are not eligible teaching fields for this alternative route. Available options include the arts and foreign languages in Grades K-8 and all disciplines taught in Grades 6-12.

---

3) Please describe the selection process.

A local education agency superintendent who wishes to employ a person may request a certificate. State Department of Education staff members assess compliance with eligibility criteria. The list of eligible applicants for certification in Grades K-8 and 9-12 is approved by the State Board of Education.

---

4) Describe the program of study.

The program requires no more than 12 semester hours of study in classroom management; evaluation of teaching and learning; inclusion of special education students in the regular classroom; and methods of teaching at the grade level for which certification is sought, which must include the appropriate use of technology.

---

5) Is practice teaching required?

No

Total Hours: NA

Description:

Eligibility for a Professional Educator certificate requires three consecutive years of full-time teaching (with the guidance of a mentor) in the subject and at the grade level for which certification is sought. All three years must be in the same local education agency.

---

6) Are assessments required, other than those required for initial licensure or certification?

No

---

7) Must alternative route completers take regular state assessments?

Yes

---

8) Is this program supported by a private organization (such as Teach for America)?

No

Please Specify

NA

---

9) Who administers the program (e.g. the state, an institution of higher education, a district, a non-profit organization)?

The State Department of Education administers the program. Required courses may be completed at any institution(s) with state-approved teacher education programs. Institutions are not held accountable for the performance of persons whom they allow to enroll in the courses required for this alternative route because such persons are not required to comply with approved program requirements (GPA, non-course specific assessments, etc.).

---

- 10) Please select those institutions offering this alternative route.  
NA
- 

## Preliminary

- 1) Alternative route or program name.  
Preliminary
- 

- 2) What kind of person, with what qualifications, is recruited for this alternative route or program.

Information about this route to certification is provided to persons who inquire about routes to earning teacher certification. Eligibility criteria for certification at the bachelor's degree level include an earned bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution in the area for which certification is sought or in a related area and two years of successful experience in the area or related area. For speech and language impaired, eligibility criteria specify at least an earned bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution in speech/language impaired. For school counseling, eligibility criteria specify at least an earned master's degree from a regionally accredited institution and a valid license in counseling from any state. For library-media, eligibility criteria specify at least an earned master's degree from a regionally accredited institution in library science. For other master's degree level certificates, eligibility criteria specify an earned master's degree from a regionally accredited institution in the area for which certification is sought or in a related area and three years of successful experience in the area.

---

- 3) Please describe the selection process.

A local education agency superintendent may request a certificate in order to employ a qualified person. State Department of Education staff members assess compliance with eligibility criteria.

---

- 4) Describe the program of study.

No program of study is required. Two years of full-time teaching (with support from a mentor) are required to earn a Professional Educator certificate.

---

5) Is practice teaching required?

No

Total Hours: NA

Description:

Eligibility for a Professional Educator certificate requires two years of teaching in the subject for which certification is sought (with the guidance of a mentor) in Alabama public schools.

---

6) Are assessments required, other than those required for initial licensure or certification?

No

---

7) Must alternative route completers take regular state assessments?

Yes

---

8) Is this program supported by a private organization (such as Teach for America)?

No

Please Specify

NA

---

9) Who administers the program (e.g. the state, an institution of higher education, a district, a non-profit organization)?

The State Department of Education administers the program.

---

10) Please select those institutions offering this alternative route.

NA

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## **Pass Rates for Alternative Routes**

**(2003-2004)**

[\\*\\*\\* Updated 2000-2001 alternative route pass rates - NEW \\*\\*\\*](#)

No information available.

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# Pass Rates for Alternative Routes

(2000-2001)

No information available.

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## Temporary & Emergency Certification or Licensure

### Section 1.f

- 1) Please provide descriptions of the different categories or terms your state uses for temporary waivers of state certification or licensure requirements, such as "emergency permit certificate".

Category or Term: Emergency Certificate

Web Address: [http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/Teacher Education & Certification/ Publications/ Documents/ Teacher Certification Standards \[.03\(f\) Emergency Certificate\]](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/TeacherEducation&Certification/Publications/Documents/TeacherCertificationStandards[.03(f)EmergencyCertificate])

Duration (years): 1

Renewable: No

Times: 0

Renewal Duration (years): 0

Description: A local superintendent may request an Emergency Certificate, when no certified applicant is available, in order to employ a person with at least an earned bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution. The certificate expires the following June 30.

- 
- 2) Please provide information about the extent to which local education authorities are involved in deciding whether an individual shall receive a waiver of certification or licensure requirements. In some states, for instance, schools or school districts must request that an individual be given a waiver before that state authority will consider granting it. (Please

include references to applicable regulations or manuals.)

Description:

Emergency Certificates are issued only upon the request of an employing superintendent.

References and URLs submitted are listed below.

Reference: Emergency Certificate

Web Address:[http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/Teacher Education & Certification/  
Publications/ Documents/ Teacher Certification Standards \[.03\(f\) Emergency Certificate\]](http://www.alsde.edu/Sections/TeacherEducation&Certification/Publications/Documents/TeacherCertificationStandards[.03(f)EmergencyCertificate])

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3) Waivers may be requested by:

Individual: No

School District: Yes

State: No

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## Reciprocity/Interstate Agreements

### Type A Certificates

State	Class B Professional Educator
Alabama	
Alaska	✓
American Samoa	
Arizona	✓
Arkansas	✓
California	
Colorado	✓
Connecticut	✓
Delaware	✓
District of Columbia	✓
Federated States of Micronesia	
Florida	✓
Georgia	✓
Guam	✓
Hawaii	✓

Idaho	✓
Illinois	✓
Indiana	✓
Iowa	
Kansas	✓
Kentucky	✓
Louisiana	✓
Maine	✓
Marshall Islands	
Maryland	✓
Massachusetts	✓
Michigan	✓
Minnesota	
Mississippi	✓
Missouri	
Montana	✓
Nebraska	✓
Nevada	✓
New Hampshire	✓
New Jersey	✓
New Mexico	✓
New York	✓
North Carolina	✓
North Dakota	✓
Northern Marianas	
Ohio	✓
Oklahoma	✓
Oregon	✓
Palau	
Pennsylvania	✓
Puerto Rico	
Rhode Island	✓
South Carolina	✓

South Dakota	
Tennessee	✓
Texas	✓
Utah	✓
Vermont	✓
Virgin Islands	
Virginia	✓
Washington	✓
West Virginia	✓
Wisconsin	
Wyoming	✓

## Type B Certificates

State	Class A Professional Educator
Alabama	
Alaska	✓
American Samoa	
Arizona	✓
Arkansas	✓
California	
Colorado	✓
Connecticut	✓
Delaware	✓
District of Columbia	✓
Federated States of Micronesia	
Florida	✓
Georgia	✓
Guam	✓
Hawaii	✓
Idaho	✓
Illinois	✓
Indiana	✓

Iowa	
Kansas	✓
Kentucky	✓
Louisiana	✓
Maine	✓
Marshall Islands	
Maryland	✓
Massachusetts	✓
Michigan	✓
Minnesota	
Mississippi	✓
Missouri	
Montana	✓
Nebraska	✓
Nevada	✓
New Hampshire	✓
New Jersey	✓
New Mexico	✓
New York	✓
North Carolina	✓
North Dakota	✓
Northern Marianas	
Ohio	✓
Oklahoma	✓
Oregon	✓
Palau	
Pennsylvania	✓
Puerto Rico	
Rhode Island	✓
South Carolina	✓
South Dakota	
Tennessee	✓
Texas	✓

Utah	✓
Vermont	✓
Virgin Islands	
Virginia	✓
Washington	✓
West Virginia	✓
Wisconsin	
Wyoming	✓