

TEACHER CERTIFICATION STATUS



AN ISSUE BRIEF FROM LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF

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OBJECTIVE

Fully certified teachers must meet all requirements for teacher certification and hold a Standard or Lifetime (Provisional or Professional) Certificate.

KEY FACTS

◆ In school year 2011–12, approximately 88 percent of employed teachers were fully certified. These teachers held a Standard or Lifetime teaching certificate issued by the State Board for Educator Certification.

◆ The number and percentage of not fully certified employed teachers has decreased from school year 2007–08 to 2011–12. Not fully certified teachers may hold a Probationary, One-Year, or Visiting International Teacher certificate; a permit; or have no state-issued credential.

BUDGETARY IMPACT

The State Board for Educator Certification is funded largely from fees paid by educators and educator candidates for credentialing-related services.

STATUTORY REFERENCES

Texas Education Code, Section 21.003

Texas Education Code, Chapter 12

In school year 2011–12, Texas independent school districts (ISDs) and charter schools employed 329,352 teachers. Approximately 88 percent of those teachers were fully certified, meeting all requirements. The remaining 12 percent of teachers were not fully certified. The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) establishes the requirements for standard certification which include: completion of an approved educator preparation program, recommendation by an approved educator preparation program, and submission of a passing score on a comprehensive examination. Texas Education Code requires a teacher in an ISD to be certified or hold an appropriate credential. Charter school teachers do not have the same certification requirements unless adopted by the charter school.

Fig. 1 shows the number of regular employed classroom teachers with a subtotal of those who were fully certified and those not fully certified for school years 2007–08 to 2011–12.

FIG. 1
CERTIFICATION STATUS OF EMPLOYED TEACHERS
SCHOOL YEARS 2007–08 TO 2011–12

SCHOOL YEAR	EMPLOYED TEACHERS	FULLY CERTIFIED		NOT FULLY CERTIFIED	
		NUMBER	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
2011–12	329,352	291,563	88.5%	39,008	11.8%
2010–11	340,281	300,602	88.3%	41,208	12.1%
2009–10	338,190	299,551	88.6%	40,533	12.0%
2008–09	332,972	290,391	87.2%	44,733	13.4%
2007–08	326,933	284,221	86.9%	44,972	13.8%

NOTE: The number of teachers is reported as full-time equivalents (FTEs) and includes teachers from independent school districts (ISDs) and charter schools.

SOURCE: State Board for Educator Certification Online data; Texas Education Agency Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS), October 2012.

As shown in Fig. 1, the number and percentage of employed, fully certified teachers increased overall from school years 2007–08 to 2011–12. Fully certified teachers hold a Standard or Lifetime (Provisional or Professional) certificate. These teachers have met all of the requirements for teacher certification in Texas.

Over the same five-year period, the number and percentage of not fully certified teachers decreased, although the total number of employed teachers increased. According to SBEC data, not fully certified teachers may be working towards standard certification. These teachers may hold Probationary, One-Year, Temporary or Visiting International Teacher certificates. They may be enrolled in an alternative educator certification program,

or may need to take the exams required for standard certification. Alternatively, they may hold a permit (requested by a school district) to work in a teaching position for which the teacher is not fully certified, but is working towards certification. These positions are often in high-demand teaching areas including mathematics, science, and career and technology. For example, a school district may request a permit for a specific career and technology course and hire a person with an active professional licensure or certification to teach that course. Lastly, not fully certified teachers may have no state-issued credential meaning they do not hold a credential. For example, teachers in open-enrollment charter schools may not be required to hold a state-issued credential. Additionally, teachers with certain school district teaching permits may also lack a state-issued credential.

Fig. 2 provides information about the types of educator credentials. Each credential carries a unique set of requirements outlined in the Texas Administrative Code.

FIG. 2
TEACHER CREDENTIAL DESIGNATIONS

TYPE OF CERTIFICATION	TYPE OF CREDENTIAL	DETAILS
Fully Certified	Standard	A certificate issued since September 1, 1999 that is renewed every five years.
	Provisional and Professional	Certificates issued prior to September 1, 1999 that did not require a renewal. Commonly called a lifetime certificate. Valid for the life of the individual unless suspended, surrendered in lieu of revocation, or revoked by lawful authority.
Not Fully Certified	Probationary	A 1-year credential for teachers obtaining an educator certificate through an alternative educator preparation program. May be extended for no more than two annual terms following expiration of the initial term.
	One-Year	A 1-year credential for an out-of-state certified educator working toward a standard certificate.
	Temporary	A 2-year credential for teachers meeting certain requirements in Grades 8 to 12 in a subject area of the curriculum in which the person holds a degree.
	Visiting International Teacher	A 3-year credential for teachers holding valid teaching credentials from country of origin based on the equivalent of at least a United States baccalaureate degree.
	Permit*	A 1-year credential requested by a district seeking to place an educator who meets certain qualifications into a position for which the educator is not certified.
	None	No state-issued credential.
	Standard	A certificate issued since September 1, 1999 that is renewed every five years.

* Permit includes emergency permits, nonrenewable permits, and emergency certificates.

SOURCE: Texas Administrative Code, Section 230; State Board for Educator Certification.

USEFUL REFERENCES

Texas Education Agency: http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=5033&menu_id=886&menu_id2=794

- Completed studies on teacher demographics, teacher attrition and retention, teacher shortages, mathematics and science teachers, teacher appraisals, and administrators
- Interactive reports related to general certification, SBEC production, and test pass rate
- Data update report to SBEC, 2007–09

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