

FAQs about Emergency Certification

How does a person begin the process of becoming an emergency certified teacher?

People cannot just decide they want to become emergency certified. Emergency certification can only be requested by a district if an appropriately certified person for the open position cannot be found. An emergency certification request must be submitted electronically by the district superintendent or designee. When that is completed the applicant must then apply electronically. A teacher candidate will be contacted by OKCPS HR with information on appropriate steps.

Does every emergency certified teacher follow the same path to certification?

No. Each teacher has a different path. Once emergency certification is granted, an email is sent to the candidate explicitly stating his or her individual certification requirements. OKCPS can answer general questions regarding certification but if teachers have questions related to their individual experience, please refer back to the email that accompanied the teaching certificate or call Teacher Certification at Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) at 405-521-3337. All communication sent by OSDE is now fully digital and can be accessed by logging in to the [Single Sign On](#) and following the steps below:

- Login in with personal credentials
- Click box under Oklahoma Educator Credentialing System labeled *EDU - Educator*
- On the left navigation menu, click the tab labeled *My Credentials*
- On the left navigation menu, click the Educator Option *Print History*

Once approved, how long does emergency certification last?

Emergency certification is granted for one academic calendar year.

Can the emergency certification be renewed?

If educators do not meet all requirements as outlined in their deficiency letters but can show evidence of meeting both district and OSDE annual requirements, the district can submit an application to be approved for emergency certification for an additional year. Please note, there is no guarantee that the teacher will be approved. Additional OKCPS requirements may be included as well.

What tests are required to become certified?

~~OGET (Oklahoma General Education Test)~~ **No longer required as of May 5, 2022. (HB 3658),
OPTE and PPAT have both been retired and replaced with the APK**

1. OSAT (Oklahoma Subject Area Test) **OR** Praxis Subject Assessment
2. FOR (Foundations of Reading) Assessment (*Early Childhood, Elementary Education, and Special Education only*)
3. APK (Assessment of Professional Knowledge)

For those seeking their initial certification in the state of Oklahoma and DO NOT have a teacher identification number issued by OSDE, the U.S. Naturalization Test is required. Please find more information linked [HERE](#). (At this time, if you have an OSDE Teacher Number, you are not required to take this test.)

How does the teacher candidate register for certification exams?

Oklahoma Subject Area Tests, Foundations of Reading, and Assessment of Professional Knowledge Registration information can be found [HERE](#)

Registration information for the Praxis subject assessment can be found [HERE](#)

Reminder - The teacher will take the required OSAT OR Praxis subject assessment, not both.

How does OKCPS support emergency and alternatively certified teachers?

- Professional Development designed specifically for new teachers will be offered throughout the year at both the district and site level in coordination with various OKCPS departments. We also partner with surrounding universities and state organizations to offer opportunities for our emergency and alternatively certified teachers to learn more about the requirements for certification.
- Emergency Certified Teachers have an extended workday calendar. Five additional professional learning days are built into the year.
- DIGITAL RESOURCES are available for our new teachers on our OKCPS New Teacher Google Site - www.okcps.org/newteacher. Curricular resources can be found at the Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Learning Site linked [HERE](#).

- First year teachers will be paired with an OKCPS New Teacher Mentor. Though new teacher needs should direct the collaboration of the mentor and new teacher, monthly checklists are provided by the district that includes talking points and resources for both the mentor and new teacher. Checklists are located on the Mentorship Resources page on our OKCPS New Teacher Site.
- SOME emergency and alternatively certified teachers will have an instructional coach at their school site. The instructional coach will partner with the teachers to offer support in developing positive classroom culture, classroom management, and best practice strategies when planning for instruction. The instructional coach will be in the classroom often offering guidance and feedback.

Additional Resources

- Important Websites to explore:
 - OEQA (Office of Educational Quality and Accountability) Website: <https://www.ok.gov/oeqa/> (This is your GO TO resource regarding certification testing.)
 - CEOE (Certification Examinations for Oklahoma Educators) Website: <https://www.ceoe.nesinc.com/>
 - OSDE (Oklahoma State Department of Education) Teacher Certification: <https://oklahoma.gov/education/services/teacher-certification.html>
- Many universities in the state have programs designed to help teachers meet the requirements for certification. OEQA has created a resource located [HERE](#). Find information about universities that have contacted OKCPS directly with information about available programs visit the Certification Resources page of our new teacher site.
- There is a private Facebook Group called [Oklahoma Teachers Emergency Certified - Ideas, Resources, and Advice](#). Though not associated with OKCPS, educators from around the state collaborate around the process of emergency certification.