Requirements for Level 2 and Level 3 Teaching Certificates in 50 States and the District of Columbia

Discussion Points for November 8, 2011 meeting

Initial requirements for teaching certificate - all states:

- Bachelor's degree
- Completion of state-approved teaching program
- Proof of subject-area competency (bachelor's degree in subject to be taught and/or Praxis II)

Requirements for Level 2 and Level 3 teaching certificates

- Requirements vary from state to state.
- All states require teachers to remain in the classroom beyond length of the initial certificate.

Level 2 Certificates – All but two states have level 2 certificates.

- Many states require additional university credits, the completion of an induction or mentoring program or both.
- Three states require teaching experience only.
- Several states require a professional development plan or professional review portfolio.
- Some states require evidence of student learning.

Level 3 Certificates – 15 states

- Lifetime award
- Twelve require a master's degree or national Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).
- One state accepts a sixth year of university coursework.
- Two states require a performance assessment with documentation of student learning.

Alaska, Rhode Island, and South Carolina – Highlighted Programs Using Performance Review and Professional Development Plans

Alaska:

- Level 2 certification requires:
    - Six semester hours of coursework plus
        - one course in multicultural education
        - one course in Alaska state history
    - Content area exam
    - Performance review to include a 45-minute video tape of classroom instruction with supporting documentation (lesson plans, handouts, etc.)
- The level 2 performance review and documentation is evaluated by state education personnel.
- Level 3 certificate requires an advanced degree or a NBPTS.

Rhode Island:

- I-Plan – an individualized professional development plan designed to reflect personal and professional aspirations
    - Goals-driven
    - Informed by self-study
    - Grounded in professional teaching standards
    - Connected to school and district initiatives
    - Sustained professional development
- Rhode Island does not offer a level 3 certificate (Please note: Rhode Island is currently revising its tiered licensure structure. Draft documents indicate that a level 3 certificate is under consideration.)

South Carolina:

- Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Professional Teaching (ADEPT) is a comprehensive, integrated system of support for and evaluation of new teachers
    - Education institutions use the ADEPT standards to evaluate intern teachers and to evaluate their education programs
    - A completed ADEPT file with teacher performance evaluations is required for teachers to advance from the initial (three-year certificate) to the level 2 teaching certificate.
- Level 3 certificate requires an advanced degree or a NBPTS

Delaware, Georgia, New Mexico, Washington, and Wisconsin – Highlighted Programs using Student Outcome Data for Teacher Assessment

Delaware:

- Delaware Performance Assessment System (DPAS) is a requirement for level 2 certification
    - Teacher observation
    - Teacher developed portfolio which includes documentation of student learning
        - Planning and preparation
        - Classroom environment
        - Instruction
        - Professional responsibilities
    - One failed DPAS makes an initial teacher ineligible for level 2
- Level 3 certificate requires NBPTS

Georgia:

- Clear Renewable Certificate:
    - Subject area competency
    - Teaching experience or university credits within five years
- Master Teacher Certification – Requires evidence of student progress which may be provided in one of two ways.
    - Grades 2-8 teachers may submit student test score rosters for two cohorts of students. Data is analyzed by the district to determine "growth" or "valued-added."
    - All teachers in any grade or subject may provide a portfolio documenting student progress with written explanation of how the documents show progress. This is reviewed by a panel of educators.
        - Formative assessment
        - Classroom summative assessment
        - Performance-based assessment
    - District must provide endorsement that confirms continuing positive teaching evaluation and a high level of professional responsibility

New Mexico:

- Levels 2 and 3 certifications require the following of teachers:
    - Compile the Professional Development Dossier (PDD)
    - Complete a mentoring program
    - Recommendation by a New Mexico public school superintendent
- PDD documents include:
    - Classroom data (lesson descriptions, student work, video and audio recordings, photos)
    - Written explanation of the documents/data
    - District superintendent must review and verify

- PDD is organized into five strands that align with the New Mexico Teacher Competencies and Indicators
    - Strands 1-3 which address instruction are evaluated by an educational professional outside the district.
    - Strands 4-5 address professionalism and are evaluated by the district superintendent.
- Level 3 requires an updated PDD along with proof of the completion of either a master's degree or NBPTS certificate.

Washington:

- The level 2 certificate, Pro Teach Portfolio, is based on three professional teaching standards. These include:
    - Professional Growth and Contributions
    - Building a Learning Community
    - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
- Pro Teach Portfolio represents evidence and commentary of a teacher's positive impact on student learning. It includes:
    - Documentation of reflective practice
    - Evidence of effective practice through the use of "student voice"
- The Pro Teach Portfolio is scored by professional educators.
- No level 3 certificate is available.

Wisconsin:

- The level 2 certificate requires submission of a detailed professional development plan (PDP)
- The PDP outlines a professional development process aligned to Wisconsin's teaching standards. It includes:
    - Reflection on professional practice
    - Goals for professional development
    - Plans for participation in job-embedded, sustained professional development
    - Concrete evidence (through classroom observations and documentation) of an impact of professional development on student learning
- PDP must verify the effect of professional growth on student learning.
- No level 3 certificate is available.