

IMPORTANT CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE INFORMATION

1. Last Chance for Permanent Certification.

No Permanent Certificates Will Be Issued After September 1, 2003!

Qualified K-12 educators and school administrators who currently hold eight-year professional certificates must meet the requirements and submit an application for permanent certification on or before Sept. 1, 2003. Those who miss the Sept. 1 deadline will be required to transition their certificate to a license when their current certificate expires.

2. Renewal Reminders for Teachers Holding Expiring Certificates or Licenses.

The current school year is an important transition year for Ohio educators who have certificates or licenses that are about to expire. Holders of these certificates or licenses are reminded that coursework requirements for renewal must be completed and the application must be mailed to ODE on or before September 1, 2003. Coursework requirements vary depending on the type of credential to be renewed.

IMPORTANT NOTE: In order to meet this deadline, you should plan on completing any needed coursework **prior** to the summer of 2003!

Holders of four-year certificates issued after Sept. 1, 1998, must complete six semester hours of coursework or the equivalent to transition to licensure.

Holders of eight-year certificates issued before Sept. 1, 1998, who wish to exercise their right to one final renewal, must complete 12 semester hours of coursework or the equivalent. For each year of experience during the life of the current certificate, one hour of coursework can be waived. (Sept. 1, 2006 is the last date that teachers holding an eight-year professional teaching certificate issued on or before Sept. 1, 1998 can apply for a one-time renewal.)

Holders of eight-year certificates issued before Sept. 1, 1998, who wish to transition to a five year license, must complete the equivalent of six semester hours of coursework.

Holders of a two-year provisional license who have not previously taught under the license must complete three semester hours of coursework prior to the expiration date to renew that license.

Holders of a five-year license must complete the equivalent of six semester hours prior to the expiration date to renew.

3. Reading Requirement for Newly Licensed Teachers.

The two-year provisional teaching license for early childhood, middle childhood, or intervention specialist requires a minimum of six (6) semester hours of reading courses.

The five-year professional license for early childhood, middle childhood, or intervention specialist requires a minimum of twelve (12) semester credit hours, or the equivalent, in reading.

Some teacher education institutions require that graduates in these fields complete all 12 semester credit hours before graduation and eligibility for the two-year provisional license, while others require just the six semester credit hours as provided for in law.

Recently-licensed teachers who hold the two-year provisional license in early childhood, middle childhood, or intervention specialist should be mindful of how many semester hours of reading they have completed. If they have completed fewer than twelve semester hours, they should plan now to acquire the additional credit hours before they apply for their five-year professional license. If provisional license holders have not completed the necessary coursework before expiry, their application for a professional license will be denied. Provisional licenses issued in 2002 will expire on June 30, 2004.

For more information about licensure, go to the ODE Web site at <<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/teaching-profession>>. Teachers may also contact their local professional development committee or the ODE Office of Certification and Licensure at (614) 466-3593.

SPECIAL NOTE TO WORTHINGTON TEACHERS:

If you have questions related to certification or licensure, contact the Personnel Office or any member of the Worthington Professional Development Committee:

Nancy Yates, at-large teacher member, Perry Middle School, co-chair
Jeanne Paliotto, Director of Personnel, co-chair

Kelly Wegley, high school teacher, Worthington Kilbourne
Dale Winters, middle school teacher, Perry
Ann Haymaker, elementary school teacher, Worthington Estates
Pam Spring, special education teacher, Perry

Rich Littell, high school administrator, Thomas Worthington
Pam Van Horn, middle school administrator, Kilbourne MS
Jennifer Wene, elementary school administrator, Slate Hill