What is required for a person to become certified to teach in Michigan?

In order to obtain a **provisional (initial) teaching certificate**, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

1. Have earned at least a bachelor's degree;

2. Complete a specific teacher education program at an approved teacher preparation institution. Michigan minimum standards require:

   * Completion of at least 40 semester hours in a program of general or liberal education and demonstration of an acquaintance with the substance, concepts, and methods of the principal areas of human knowledge and skills essential to communications and inquiry in modern society;

   * Completion of a program providing for depth in the substantive fields to be taught;

   * Completion of 20 semester hours in professional education courses (including at least six semester hours of directed teaching).

For a Secondary Provisional certificate:

* Completion of a major of not less than 30 semester hours or a group major of 36 semester hours and a minor of at least 20 semester hours or a group minor of 24 semester hours, and 3 semester hours in the teaching of reading.

For an Elementary Provisional certificate:

* Completion of a major of not less than 30 semester hours or a group major of 36 semester hours and a minor of at least 20 semester hours or group minor of 24 semester hours; or 3 minors of at least 20 semester hours each (2 of which shall be in substantive fields and 1 planned program of 20 semester hours of methods and/or content appropriate to elementary education; and 6 semester hours in the teaching of reading).

Candidates for teacher certification completing requirements at a Michigan teacher preparation institution must seek specific advice from that university.

3. Make payment of the appropriate fee.

4. Obtain passing scores on all appropriate Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) examinations.

Out-of-state applicants:

The Michigan Elementary and Secondary Provisional certificates are also issued on an equivalency basis when a candidate meets all of the following criteria: 1) holds at least a bachelor's degree; 2) has completed an approved out-of-state teacher preparation program; 3) holds a regular currently valid teaching certificate from another state; and 4) has not previously held a Michigan teaching certificate.

Section 1531(4) of Public Act 289 (1995) authorizes the issuance of a **Michigan Professional Education teaching certificate** and applicable endorsements comparable to those the person holds in another state without requiring the person to pass any exams if the out-of-state applicant meets all of the following requirements:

* Has taught successfully for at least 3 years in a position for which the person's teaching certification from the other state was valid;

* Has earned, after his or her initial certification in another state, at least 18 semester credit hours in a planned course of study at a State Board approved institution of higher education or has earned, at any time, a State Board approved master's or doctoral degree;

* Has met the elementary or secondary, as applicable, reading credit requirement established under State Board rule.

What is required for a person to hold a teaching permit?

There are three types of teacher permits issued in Michigan: the substitute, full year, and emergency. The **substitute permit**, also known as the **150 day permit**, is the most commonly used permit. It allows a person who does not hold a valid Michigan teaching certificate, or a certificate valid for the teaching assignment, to be employed as a substitute teacher on a day-to-day teaching assignment when the regular teacher is temporarily absent. This type of permit is not valid for a regular or extended teaching assignment. New requirements for the substitute permit were established in PA 289 (1995). These include completion of 90 (instead of 120) semester hours of credit; and elimination of the 6 semester hour credit requirement in professional education (from 6 to 0).

The **full-year permit** allows a person who does not hold a valid Michigan teacher certificate to be employed for a regular (full-time) teaching assignment. To qualify for this type of permit, a person must have completed at least 120 semester hours of satisfactory college credit. Of these credits, 15 are required to be in professional education. It is important to note that this type of permit can only be issued when it is documented that an appropriately certified teacher is not available to fill a position of a regular teaching assignment.

The **emergency permit** is issued only in situations that qualify as an "emergency" because the lack of a teacher will deprive children of an education (a labor dispute is not considered an emergency). The emergency permit allows a school district, public school academy or nonpublic school to employ a person who does not hold a valid Michigan teacher certificate or meet the requirements for a full-year permit to be employed in a regular teaching assignment. Qualifications include: completion of a baccalaureate or higher degree at a regionally or nationally accredited college or university; **or** current enrollment **and** completion of at least 90 semester hours in an approved teacher preparation program, **and** documentation that an appropriately certified teacher **or** a person who meets the requirements for a full-year permit is **not** available for the teaching assignment identified as an "emergency" situation.

Section 1233b of Public Act 289 (1995) authorizes employment of a noncertificated, nonendorsed teacher for grades 9-12 in the subject areas of computer science, foreign language, mathematics, biology, chemistry, engineering, physics, robotics, or in another subject area designated by the State Board of Education only. A permit for the full year is needed.

Teacher permits are issued to local and intermediate school districts, public school academies and nonpublic schools only. They are not issued to individuals.

For additional information regarding teacher preparation and certification, contact Ms. Lynne Erickson at (517) 335-2732. When seeking information specifically regarding permits, please call Ms. Karen Taylor at (517) 373-6895. For more information regarding the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification, contact Dr. Ghada Khoury at (517) 335-4610.