

SD EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION FLEXIBILITY OPTIONS

These options were created specifically for districts who are struggling to find certified teachers. Pursuant to [SDCL 13-43-5](#) and [SDCL 13-42-1.2](#), a certificate is required for teachers, administrators, and other educational professionals in schools and no person may draw wages, as a teacher, who does not have a valid certificate. The South Dakota state accreditation system requires that all accredited or approved non-public schools comply with state law, administrative rule, and Department of Education policy. [ARSD §§ 24:43:02:02](#) and [24:43:04:02](#).

FOR TEACHERS	
EDUCATOR PERMITS	DESCRIPTION
Career and Technical Education (CTE) Instructor	Allows individuals without a teaching degree to teach a limited number of CTE courses. Not considered an alternative route to certification and upon completion of requirements, applicants cannot add endorsements other than the ones available through this permit. More information
Expert Lecturer	Allows applicants with distinctive qualifications and experiences to teach a specific course which adds unique learning opportunities for students. Not intended to fill a vacant position. More information
Performing Artist	Designed to allow districts flexibility in the areas of art, dance, drama, and music when district is unable to hire a certified teacher. More information
International Exchange Teacher	Allows teachers from another country to teach in South Dakota for 5 years. Does not allow applicants to receive a full teacher certificate and is non-renewable. More information
Native American Language and Culture	Allows individuals without a teaching degree to teach the Lakota language and culture. Applicants must demonstrate knowledge of the language and culture. More information
Eminent Scholar Language and Culture	Allows individuals without a teaching degree to teach the Lakota language and culture. Applicants must demonstrate knowledge of the language and culture and meet requirements for the Eminent Scholar Program. More information
American Sign Language Instructor	Allows applicants without a teaching degree to serve as instructor of American sign language. More information
Braille Education Instructor	Allows applicants without a teaching degree to serve as instructors for blind or visually-impaired students. More information
Library Science	Allows applicants without a teaching degree, with a master's in library science to serve as school librarian. More information
DEFINITION OF A LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE	
VACANT TEACHING POSITION	(A) An individual acting as a teacher of record for no more than 45 cumulative school days in a vacant teaching position while a school district pursues a contract for a teacher: or (B) An individual acting as a teacher of record for more than 45 cumulative school days when a teacher is on a temporary leave of absence, if: (1) The teacher's leave of absence is granted pursuant to the "Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993," 29 U.S.C. § 2601, et seq. by the school; or (2) The individual has a valid or inactive teaching certificate.

ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION PATHS	DESCRIPTION
General Education	Leads to a secondary or K-12 preparation. Not intended for individuals who want to teach Career and Technical Education (CTE), Early Childhood, Elementary K-4 or Special Education. More information
Career and Technical Education (CTE)	Leads to a Career and Technical Education (CTE) preparation. Individuals going through this pathway may also add endorsements outside of CTE where requirements are met. More information
Teach for America (TFA)	Applicants must be participants in the Teach for America (TFA). More information
Special Education Alternative Certification	Applicants must have a valid SD teaching certificate and 3 years of teaching experience within the past 5 years. This is considered the fast-track route to the SPED Endorsement. A certified SPED Teacher must oversee and signoff on all IEPs. More information

FOR ADMINISTRATORS	
EDUCATOR PERMITS	DESCRIPTION
CEO Educator	Allows someone without an administrator degree to serve in the leadership role of a district or school in the absence of a certified school superintendent or K-12 principal. More information
ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION	DESCRIPTION
Superintendent Alternative Certification	Leads to a Superintendent endorsement. Individuals going through this pathway must have a master's degree or higher and 3 or more years of experience in a management role. More information
K-12 Principal Alternative Certification	Leads to a K-12 Principal endorsement. Individuals going through this pathway must have completed a teacher education program or alternative certification program and have 3 or more years of teaching experience. More information

FOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS	
EDUCATION SPECIALIST	DESCRIPTION
School Counselor	An applicant may be eligible to be a school counselor based on completion of a School Counselor Preparation Program or through a master's degree or higher in Counseling and 1 year of supervision by a mentor school counselor. Prior to the 2017 certification rules, an applicant could add this endorsement only through completion of the School Counselor Preparation Program. More information
Mentor School Counselor	New endorsement, as of 2017, which allows a school counselor with 3 or more years of experience to be a mentor school counselor. More information

RECIPROCITY

FOR APPLICANTS WITH EDUCATOR CERTIFICATES FROM OTHER STATES OR COUNTRIES

Completed Educator Preparation Program	Valid Certificate	Can apply for endorsements based on crosswalk of endorsements on certificate to South Dakota endorsements. Not required to pass South Dakota state-designated tests or other requirements.	Eligible for reciprocity. Can apply for a 1-year provisional certificate to complete SD Indian Studies.
	Invalid Certificate	Must meet South Dakota requirements to add endorsements.	
Completed Alternative Certification Program	Valid Certificate	Can apply for endorsements based on crosswalk of endorsements on certificate to South Dakota endorsements. Not required to pass South Dakota state-designated tests or other requirements.	Eligible for reciprocity if applicant has 3 years of experience in the past 5 years. Can apply for a 1-year provisional certificate to complete SD Indian Studies.
	Invalid Certificate	Must meet South Dakota requirements to add endorsements.	

RENEWAL OF INVALID, INTERIM, AND INACTIVE CERTIFICATES

DESCRIPTION

Temporary Certificate can be issued to an invalid certificate holder.	<p>The educator with an invalid certificate who applies for renewal may receive a one-year temporary certificate to complete the renewal requirements of the certificate type.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A temporary certificate may not be renewed. • All general requirements must be met before a temporary certificate can be issued. Most common is the completion of an approved South Dakota Indian Studies course. • Invalid educator certificate fee is \$100 in addition to the renewal fee of the certificate type. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As of December 10, 2020, the requirement for six transcribed credits was removed and replaced with the penalty fee in addition to regular renewal requirements. ○ This fee only needs to be paid once either with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ temporary application for an additional year, or ▪ 5-year renewal application. • Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training.
Interim Certificate	<p>Duration of interim certificate. An educator with an inactive certificate who applies for valid status may receive a one-year interim certificate to complete the renewal requirements of the certificate type. An interim certificate may not be renewed. Must complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training.</p>
Inactive Certificate	<p>Inactive certificate means a certificate issued to a certificate holder with a valid certificate, who is not acting as an educator and requests the certificate become inactive for a period of five years.</p> <p>Renewal requirements for an inactive certificate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meet the requirements for the Interim Certificate; or 2. Meet the renewal requirements for the applicable certificate; or 3. Apply to renew the inactive certificate. 4. Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training. <p>This certificate can be used in option <u>B (2)</u> for the Long-term Substitute.</p>

FLEXIBILITY OPTIONS FOR TEACHERS

[Return to Overview](#)

<i>CTE Instructor Permit</i>	
Description	<p>Allows individuals without a teaching degree to teach a limited number of CTE courses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not considered an alternative route to certification and upon completion of requirements, applicants cannot add any endorsements other than the ones available through this permit. ○ Applicants wanting to receive a full teaching certificate and teach in the area of CTE are encouraged to pursue CTE Alternative Certification.
Duration of certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Certificate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3-year renewable certificate which can be renewed upon completion of coursework requirements • Subsequent Certificates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 5-year renewable certificate
Cost	\$25
Applicant eligibility requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate of applied science degree or higher in a related CTE field • Hold a minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 4,000 hours of work experience in a related CTE field or national certification in a related CTE field • Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training.
District requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide mentor teacher to applicant; • Develop program to assist CTE instructor with academic and classroom support; • Provide assurance of regular observation, guidance, and evaluation of performance of assigned duties; and • Recommend the CTE instructor based on documented performance and progress by submitting a form to the department.
Endorsements	<p>Allows CTE instructor to teach in CTE fields limited to the following endorsement areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All CTE career pathway • Education and training career cluster • Law, public safety, corrections and security career cluster
Permit and renewal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewal of 3-year initial certificate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 4-credit mentorship experience and 2-credit methods of CTE ○ Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training. Must be completed each time a certificate is renewed. • Renewal of subsequent 5-year certificates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3 continuing education credits (45 clock hours of training) ○ \$25 for 5-year renewal certificate ○ Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training.

Expert Lecturer Permit	
Description	Allows applicants with distinctive qualifications and experiences to teach a specific course which adds unique learning opportunities for students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not intended to fill a vacant position, but to offer enhanced learning opportunities for students.
Duration of certificate	5 years
Cost	\$25
Applicant eligibility requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training. ● Master’s degree or higher
District requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recommend the applicant for employment by submitting a form to South Dakota Department of Education; ● Develop program to assist with academic and classroom support; ● Provide mentor teacher to applicant; and ● Provide assurance of regular observation, guidance, and evaluation of performance of assigned duties.
Endorsements	Limited to area of expert’s specialty
Renewal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training. ● 3 continuing education credits (45 clock hours of training) ● \$25 for 5-year renewal certificate

Performing Artist Permit	
Description	Designed to allow districts flexibility in the areas of art, dance, drama, and music when district is unable to hire a certified teacher.
Duration of certificate	1 year
Cost	\$25
Applicant eligibility requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training. ● High school diploma or equivalent ● Minimum of 5 years of occupational experience in performing arts field in which the permit is requested
District requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete a performing artist verification form which identifies the position to be held by the applicant and documentation that the school is unable to hire a certified educator for the vacancy; ● Provide a mentor teacher to the applicant; and ● Recommend the performing artist certificate applicant for renewal based on documented performance. During each renewal, the district must submit form to the department recommending applicant for renewal.
Endorsements	Limited to areas of art, dance, drama, and music
Renewal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training. ● .50 continuing education credits (8 clock hours of training) ● \$25 for 1-year renewal certificate

<i>International Exchange Teacher Permit</i>	
Description	Allows teachers from another country to teach in South Dakota for 5 years. Does not allow applicants to receive a full teacher certificate and is non-renewable.
Duration of certificate	5 years
Cost	\$25
Applicant eligibility requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training. • Has a valid J1 or H1B visa; • Holds citizenship outside the United States; • Transcripts evaluated by a member of NACES or AICE will determine the preparation and endorsement areas for the permit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Holds the U.S. equivalent of a bachelor’s degree or higher as shown by an evaluation completed by agencies approved by the Department to evaluate such credentials to determine eligibility for certification that includes a course-by-course credential report of university-level credit completed, course titles, grades, semester hours earned, U.S. equivalency of degree earned, and documentation that the equivalent of a Department-approved educator preparation program was completed; and • Holds a foreign educator credential in a teaching field comparable to those recognized in South Dakota.
District requirements	Provide verification of Intent to Employ submitted to the department
Endorsements	May receive endorsements based on reciprocity. Additional endorsements may be added if current South Dakota requirements are met.
Renewal requirements	Non-renewable. May apply for a 5-year teaching certificate if South Dakota Indian Studies course has been completed and endorsements will be transferred to a professional certificate.

Native American/Eminent Scholar Language and Culture Permits (Lakota, Dakota, Nakota)

Native American Language and Culture Permit	Allows individuals without a teaching degree to teach Lakota language and culture. Applicants must demonstrate knowledge of the language and culture.
Eminent Scholar Language and Culture Permit	Allows individuals without a teaching degree to teach Lakota language and culture. Applicants must demonstrate knowledge of the language and culture and meet requirements of the Eminent Scholar Program.

Applicant Requirements		Native American Language Permit	Eminent Scholar Language Permit
Duration of certificate	5 years	X	X
Cost	\$25	X	X
Applicant eligibility requirements	Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training.	X	X
	3-hour methodology course directly related to teaching Lakota, Dakota, Nakota language and culture	X	X
	Demonstrates proficiency in Lakota, Dakota, or Nakota oral and written language and culture with recognition from a regionally-accredited institution of higher education offering a teacher education program in Lakota studies or an organization approved by both a tribal government in South Dakota and the Department;	X	
	Recommended for licensure to teach Lakota, Dakota, or Nakota oral and written language and culture to grades kindergarten through 12 by a regionally-accredited institution of higher education offering a teacher education program in Lakota studies or an organization approved by a tribal government in South Dakota and the Department.	X	
	Recommended for licensure to teach Lakota, Dakota, or Nakota oral and written language and culture in grades kindergarten through 12 by an indigenous language board or similar organization created and recognized by a tribal government.		X
	Meets requirements of Eminent Scholar Program		X
District requirements	None	X	X
Endorsements	Limited to Lakota language courses	X	X
Renewal requirements	Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training.	X	X
	3 continuing education credits (45 clock hours of training)	X	X
	\$25 for 5-year renewal certificate	X	X

[Return to Overview](#)

American Sign Language Instructor Permit

Description	Allows applicants without a teaching degree to serve as instructors of American sign language.
Duration of certificate	5 years
Cost	\$25
Applicant eligibility requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Score of intermediate or level 3 or higher on the Sign Language Proficiency Instrument (SLPI) or certification from the American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA); and • 6 semester hours of coursework including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understanding deaf cultures; and ○ Understanding American Sign Language grammar.
District requirements	None
Endorsements	American Sign Language Instructor, which allows individual to teach American Sign Language
Renewal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training. • 3 continuing education credits (45 clock hours of training) • \$25 for 5-year renewal certificate

[Return to Overview](#)

Braille Education Instructor Permit

Description	Allows applicants without a teaching degree to serve as instructors for blind or visually-impaired students.
Duration of certificate	5 years
Cost	\$25
Applicant eligibility requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passage of state-designated content test (Praxis 0633) • 6 semester hours of coursework including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction to teaching students who are blind; ○ Methodology of teaching elementary reading; and ○ Introduction to classroom modifications and assistive technology for students who are blind.
District requirements	None
Endorsements	Braille Instructor which allows individual to teach Braille assignments
Renewal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training. • 3 continuing education credits (45 clock hours of training) • \$25 for 5-year renewal certificate

Library Science Educator Permit

Description	Allows someone who meets the requirements of this permit to be employed as a school librarian.
Duration of certificate	5 years
Cost	\$25
Applicant eligibility requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master’s Degree or higher in Library Science • Pass the state-designated pedagogy test (Praxis 5311) • Pass the state-designated content test (Praxis 5625) • Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training.
District requirements	Must provide a mentor school librarian, approved by the state library, during the first two years of employment as a librarian.
Endorsements	Allows applicants to receive the Elementary School Library and/or the Secondary School Library Endorsement.
Assignments/Courses	<p><i>Elementary School Library Endorsement</i> 25400 Elementary School Librarian 25401 Grades 5-8 School Librarian</p> <p><i>Secondary School Library Endorsement</i> 25401 Grades 5-8 School Librarian 25402 School Librarian</p>
Permit requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited to the area of a school librarian
Renewal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training. • Six education-related transcribed credits <u>or</u> continuing education contact hours or two years in a state-approved mentor program. • First renewal will need to provide documentation a mentor school librarian, approved by the South Dakota State Library, provided mentorship for the first two years of employment. • \$25 for 5-year renewal certificate
Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Application – Educator Permit ONLY Initial Application • Renewal Application – Permit ONLY Renewal

Alternative Certification Paths

General Education	Leads to a secondary or K-12 preparation. Not intended for individuals who want to teach Career and Technical Education (CTE), Early Childhood, Elementary K-4 or Special Education. After completion of requirements, applicants may add other endorsements based on the preparation. To add CTE endorsements, applicants must complete the CTE methods course.
CTE	Leads to a Career and Technical Education (CTE) preparation. Individuals going through this pathway may also add endorsements outside of CTE where requirements are met. Individuals who want to teach CTE but not complete the additional coursework requirements may prefer to apply for a CTE Instructor Permit . The permit is limited to only CTE pathways, and individuals may not add other endorsements except those specifically available through that route. Comparison of CTE Alternative Certification and CTE Instructor Permit .
Teach for America (TFA)	Applicants must be participants in the Teach for America (TFA) program. According to the TFA website , applicants must have a bachelor’s degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 and citizenship, national/legal resident status, or have obtained an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) through a category that does not require employer sponsorship.
Special Education	Applicants must have a valid teaching certificate and 3 years of teaching experience within the past 5 years. The 3 years can be from a completed alternative certification route listed above.

Alternative Certification Process

Steps	Applications
1	Complete Alternative Preliminary Initial Application (<i>not required for SPED</i>)
2	Complete ‘Step 2’ Initial Alternative Certification Application (<i>following offer of employment by a district</i>)
3	Complete Alternative Certification Renewal Application (<i>if needed for year 2 and 3</i>)
4	Complete Transition from Alternative Certification (<i>when all requirements are met</i>)

Teaching Assignments by Alternative Certification Type

Allowable grade spans for Alternative Certification	General Education	TFA	CTE	SPED
Early Childhood				
Grades K-4 math, science, social science, English Language Arts, Self-Contained		X		
Grades 5-8 math, science, social science, English Language Arts, Self-Contained	X	X	X*	
Secondary Teacher – math, science, social science, etc.	X	X	X*	
CTE courses			X	
K-12 endorsement areas music, physical education, computers, health, etc.	X	X	X*	
Special Education Early Childhood SPED – Must have an Early Childhood or Elementary Preparation K-12 SPED – Must have an Elementary, Secondary, K-12, or CTE Preparation				X

****Main teaching assignments must be CTE-related***

Applicant Requirements by Alternative Certification Type

Applicant Requirements		General Education	TFA	CTE	SPED
Apply for and receive an Alternative Preliminary Certificate based on:		X	X	X	
Bachelor's degree or higher		X	X		X
Associate of applied science degree or higher in related CTE field				X	
Documentation of 4000 hours of work experience in related CTE field within the previous five years				X	
National certification in related CTE field				X	
Receive a qualifying job offer and submit intent to employ from a SD accredited school		X	X	X	X
Apply for Alternative Certificate (1-year certificate)	60 Minutes (1 hour) Suicide awareness and prevention training	X	X	X	X
	Participate in TFA program		X		
	Active teaching certificate				X
	3 years of teaching experience in past 5 years				X
Reapply for Alternative Certification up to additional 2 years or until all requirements are met	60 Minutes (1 hour) Suicide awareness and prevention training	X	X	X	X
	Submit recommendation for renewal from employing school	X	X	X	X
	Submit verification of continued eligibility for TFA program		X		
	Submit evidence of progress toward completion of requirements	X	X	X	X
Apply for Transition from Alternative Certification when all requirements are met		X	X	X	X
District requirements		General Education	TFA	CTE	SPED
Verify applicant has valid Alternative Preliminary Certificate		X	X	X	
Verify applicant has valid SD teaching certificate and 3 years of teaching experience in past 5 years					X
Document on the intent to employ form that the school attempted but was unable to hire certified teacher prior to hiring applicant with alternative certificate		X	X	X	X
Offer state-approved mentoring program		X	X	X	
Provide mentorship by individual with special education experience					X
Provide the applicant with information about the South Dakota Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers as set forth in chapter 24:08:03		X	X	X	
Train applicant on school's teacher evaluation system		X	X	X	
Annually recommend applicant for renewal, based on documented performance and progress of pathway.		X	X	X	X
Applicant requirements to Complete the Program <i>(progress report is sent with yearly certificate)</i>		General Education	TFA	CTE	SPED
Pass state-designated pedagogy test <i>(required Praxis test will be sent with certificate)</i>		X	X	X	X
Pass state-designated Special Education content test (Praxis 5354)					X
Complete approved 3-credit South Dakota Indian Studies course		X	X	X	
Complete 12 transcribed credits with a C or higher in the following: Classroom Management, Teaching Methods, Student Assessment, Differentiated Instruction, Adolescent Psychology		X	X		
Complete 6 transcribed credits with a C or higher in the following: Methods of CTE and mentored internship which including units on classroom management, student assessment, differentiated instruction. Complete 3 transcribed credits with a C or higher in Adolescent Psychology				X	
Complete a 6-credit, year-long SPED practicum and 9 credits of coursework in SPED law, SPED assessment, and SPED education-related course within the ten-year period prior to application.					X
Receive sign-off from employing district		X	X	X	X

FLEXIBILITY OPTIONS FOR ADMINISTRATORS

[Return to Overview](#)

<i>CEO Educator Permit</i>	
Description	Allows someone without an administrator degree to serve in the leadership role of a district or school in the absence of a certified school superintendent or K-12 principal.
Duration of certificate	5 years
Cost	\$25
Applicant eligibility requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor’s degree or higher • Minimum 3 years of documented business, management, leadership, or instructional experience • Pass state-designated content test (Praxis 5412) • Completion of an approved suicide awareness and prevention training
District requirements	None
Endorsements	Allows individual to be coded as CEO
Permit requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not complete teacher evaluations • May not be designated as or referred to as a superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, or assistant principal
Renewal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training. • 3 continuing education credits (45 clock hours of training) • \$25 for 5-year renewal certificate

Superintendent Endorsement Alternative Certification	
Description	Leads to a Superintendent endorsement. Individuals going through this pathway must have a master’s degree or higher and 3 or more years of experience in a management role.
Duration of certificate	1 year; may be renewed 4 times
Cost	\$25
Applicant eligibility requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Valid Alternative Preliminary or South Dakota Educator Certificate ● Master’s degree or higher from a regionally-accredited institution of higher education ● 3 or more years of experience in a management role in a business, public school, or South Dakota Department of Education-accredited school, or employed as a teacher in a leadership role ● Offer of employment from a public or department-accredited school ● Submission of a professional development plan identifying how alternative certification requirements will be met ● Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training if an approved training has not been submitted within the previous year.
District requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Verify applicant has a valid Alternative Preliminary Certificate, SD Educator Certificate ● Document district attempted but was unable to hire a certified administrator prior to hiring applicant with an alternative certificate ● Provide mentorship by an individual with experience as a school administrator ● Provide applicant with information about South Dakota Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers and South Dakota Code of Professional Ethics for Administrators ● Train applicant on administrator and teacher evaluation systems ● Annually recommend applicant for renewal, based on documented performance and progress.
Endorsements	May act as Superintendent while completing Superintendent endorsement through alternative certification.
Renewal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training if an approved training has not been submitted within the previous year. ● Submit recommendation for renewal from employing district ● Submit professional development plan identifying how alternative certification requirements will be met ● \$25 for 1-year renewal certificate
Requirements to complete Superintendent endorsement through alternative certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3-credit approved South Dakota Indian Studies course (<i>can be previously completed</i>) ● 18 transcribed credits from a regionally-accredited institution of higher education with a grade of C or higher within the ten-year period prior to application in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leadership and district culture ○ Organizational management ○ Values and ethics of leadership ○ Educational policy and law ○ Communication ○ Community relations ○ Curriculum planning and development ○ School finance ○ Instructional management ● Pass state-designated test (Praxis 6991)

K-12 Principal Endorsement Alternative Certification

Description	Leads to a K-12 Principal endorsement. Individuals going through this pathway must have completed a teacher education program or alternative certification program and have 3 or more years of teaching experience.
Duration of certificate	1-year; may be renewed 4 times
Cost	\$25
Applicant eligibility requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete state-approved teacher education program or alternative certification route. ● Have 3 or more years of authorized K-12 teaching experience. ● Submit a professional development plan identifying how the requirements of will be met; and ● Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training if an approved training has not been submitted within the previous year.
District requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Verify applicant has a valid SD teaching certificate ● Document the district attempted but was unable to hire a certified administrator prior to hiring applicant with an alternative certificate ● Provide mentorship by an individual with experience as a school administrator ● Provide applicant with information about South Dakota Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers and South Dakota Code of Professional Ethics for Administrators ● Train applicant on administrator and teacher evaluation systems ● Annually recommend applicant for renewal, based on documented performance and progress
Endorsements	May act as Principal while completing K-12 principal endorsement through alternative certification.
Renewal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training if an approved training has not been submitted within the previous year. ● Submit recommendation for renewal from employing district, including an updated professional development plan identifying how alternative certification requirements will be met ● \$25 for 1-year renewal certificate
Requirements to complete K-12 principal endorsement through alternative certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3-credit approved South Dakota Indian Studies course ● 15 transcribed credits from a regionally-accredited institution of higher education with a grade of C or higher in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Instructional leadership ○ Ethical and inclusive leadership ○ Cognitive coaching/facilitation skills ○ Creating a safe and inclusive school environment ○ Process management ○ Systems management ○ Educational policy and law ● Receive sign-off from employing school district ● Pass state-designated content test (Praxis 6990)

FLEXIBILITY OPTIONS FOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS

SPECIALISTS

[Return to Overview](#)

<i>School Counselor</i>	
Description	An applicant may be eligible to be a school counselor based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • completion of a School Counselor Preparation Program or • through a master’s degree or higher in Counseling, 1 year of supervision by a mentor school counselor and passage of state-designated content test.
Duration of certificate	5 years
Cost	\$60
Applicant eligibility requirements	Option 1: Completion of School Counselor Preparation Program Option 2 requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Master’s degree or higher in Counseling; ○ 1 year of supervision by a mentor school counselor; and ○ Must pass state-designated test (Praxis 5421).
Endorsements	Once issued can be referred to as a School Counselor
Renewal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training. • Completion of National Board Certification of School Counselors or 6 renewal credits of any kind • \$60 for 5-year renewal certificate

[Return to Overview](#)

<i>Mentor School Counselor</i>	
Description	New endorsement, as of 2017, which allows a school counselor with 3 or more years of experience to be a mentor school counselor. A mentor school counselor may provide supervision for an individual with a master’s degree or higher in counseling who is pursuing school counselor certification.
Duration of certificate	5 years
Cost	\$60 (no additional cost if applicant has an Educator Certificate)
Applicant eligibility requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of School Counselor Endorsement • 3 or more years of experience as a school counselor
Endorsements	Mentor School Counselor Endorsement
Renewal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of suicide awareness and prevention training. • Completion of National Board Certification of School Counselors or 6 renewal credits of any kind • \$60 for 5-year renewal certificate (no additional cost if applicant has an Educator Certificate)