

TEACH FOR AMERICA ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION

<i>Name of Certificate</i>	Certificate will be referred to as Educator Certification - Alternative Certification.
<i>Certificate Type</i>	Alternative Certification – An alternative process of completing teacher or administrator certification requirements while simultaneously employed as a teacher or administrator in a public or Department-accredited school.
<i>Preparation Type</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach for America (TFA) Alternative Preparation (not completed) • Teacher (Elementary, Secondary, or K-12)
<i>Duration and Expiration of Certificate</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-year Certificate which can be renewed two times • Certificates expire June 30th
<i>Fees</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$25 Initial Educator Certificate (1-year Certificate) • \$25 1-year Renewal
<i>Certificate Holder Requirements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have a valid Alternative Preliminary Certificate • Meets the requirements of the TFA national teacher corps and is a current participant in the TFA program; and • Receives an offer of employment from a public or Department-accredited school.
<i>Scope of Certificate</i>	A TFA alternative teaching certificate holder may not teach grades or content areas beyond the endorsements listed on the certificate.
<i>Authorization</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An applicant for a TFA alternative certificate <u>may</u> teach in the following areas once the endorsement requirements are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elementary teacher; ▪ Secondary teacher; or ▪ K-12 teacher. • An applicant for a TFA alternative certificate <u>may not</u> teach in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Early childhood education; ▪ Early childhood special education; or ▪ K-12 special education.

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Employer Requirements

- A school district or department-accredited school employing a TFA alternative teaching certificate applicant shall:
 - Verify the applicant has a valid alternative preliminary certificate;
 - Document the school attempted but was unable to hire a certified teacher prior to hiring an applicant with an alternative certificate;
 - Offer a mentoring program;
 - Provide the applicant with information about the SD Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers;
 - Train the applicant on the school teacher evaluation system; and
 - Recommend the alternative certification teacher for renewal based on documented performance and progress.

Requirements to Obtain a Professional Teaching Certificate

- A TFA alternative certificate holder applying for a professional teaching certificate shall:
 - Complete a minimum of 15 transcribed credits with a C or higher in the following:
 - Classroom management;
 - Teaching methods;
 - Student assessment;
 - Differentiated instruction;
 - Adolescent psychology; and
 - South Dakota Indian studies.
 - Pass the state-designated pedagogy test;
 - Adhere to the SD Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers; and
 - Receive signoff from the employing school/district.
 - Participate in a mentor program

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<i>Renewal Requirements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit verification of continued eligibility for the TFA program;• Submit a recommendation for renewal from the employing school/district; and• Complete a minimum of 60 minutes of Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training is required by state statute.
<i>Maximum Length of Certificate</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The applicant has three years to complete the TFA alternative teaching certificate. The TFA alternative certificate is invalid following the expiration date of the third year.• After alternative certification requirements are met the Alternative Certification Preparation will be updated from not complete to complete.