

EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION FLEXIBILITY OPTIONS

This document highlights options made available through the 2017 educator certification rules

FOR TEACHERS	
EDUCATOR PERMITS	DESCRIPTION
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
Driver's Education Instructor	Allows individuals to be certified to teach Driver's Education and sign off on completion of the state-approved driver education course. Applicants are not required to have a teaching degree. 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
ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION PATHS	DESCRIPTION
General Education	Leads to a secondary or K-12 preparation. Not intended for individuals who want to teach CTE. More information
CTE	Leads to a CTE preparation. Individuals going through this pathway may also add endorsements for other areas such as math, science, etc. More information
Teach for America (TFA)	Applicants must be participants in the Teach for America (TFA) program. More information
Special Education Alternative Certification	Applicants must have a valid teaching certificate and 3 years of teaching experience within the past 5 years. 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	<p>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.</p> <p>Prior to the 2017 certification rules, an applicant could add this endorsement only through completion of the School Counselor Preparation Program. More information</p>
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

RECIPROCIITY

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.	



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](#)

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. 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.</p> <p>Applicants wanting to receive a full teaching certificate and teach in the area of CTE are encouraged to pursue CTE Alternative Certification.</p>
Duration of certificate	5 years
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 • Completion of an approved 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 • During each renewal, must submit form to South Dakota Department of Education recommending applicant based on performance and progress
Endorsements	<p>Allows CTE instructor to teach in CTE fields limited to the following endorsement areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTE career pathway • Education and training career cluster • Law, public safety, corrections and security career cluster
Permit requirements	<p>Within 3 years of receiving certificate, CTE instructor must complete courses from a regionally-accredited institution of higher education with a grade of C or higher in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-credit mentored internship experience • 2-credit methods of CTE
Renewal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suicide awareness and prevention training • 3 continuing education credits (45 clock hours of training) • \$25 for 5-year renewal certificate

[Return to Overview](#)

<i>Expert Lecturer Permit</i>	
Description	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, but to offer enhanced learning opportunities for students.
Duration of certificate	5 years
Cost	\$25
Applicant eligibility requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an approved suicide awareness and prevention training • Master's degree or higher
District requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During each renewal, must submit form to South Dakota Department of Education recommending applicant for renewal, based on performance and progress • Provide mentor teacher to applicant • Develop program to assist with academic and classroom support • Provide assurance of regular observation, guidance, and evaluation
Endorsements	Limited to area of expert's specialty
Renewal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suicide awareness and prevention training • 3 continuing education credits (45 clock hours of training) • \$25 for 5-year renewal certificate

[Return to Overview](#)

<i>Performing Artist Permit</i>	
Description	Designed to allow districts flexibility in the areas of art, dance, drama, and music when district is unable to hire a certified teacher. Intended for, but not limited to, rural districts.
Duration of certificate	1 year
Cost	\$25
Applicant eligibility requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an approved 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"> • Provide documentation district/school is unable to hire a certified teacher • Submit performing artist verification form to South Dakota Department of Education, which identifies position to be held by applicant • Provide mentor teacher to assist applicant • During each renewal, district must submit form to the department recommending applicant for renewal, based on documented performance
Endorsements	Limited to areas of art, dance, drama, and music
Renewal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suicide awareness and prevention training • .50 continuing education credits (8 clock hours of training) • \$25 for 1-year renewal certificate

[Return to Overview](#)

Driver's Education Instructor Permit

Description	Allows individuals to be certified to teach Driver's Education and sign off on completion of the state-approved driver education course.
Duration of certificate	5 years
Cost	\$25
Applicant eligibility requirements (beginning July 1, 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an approved suicide awareness and prevention training • At least 21 years of age • High school diploma or equivalent • No traffic-related driver's license court suspensions or revocations within the preceding 36 months • No convictions for traffic violations that carry a mandatory suspension or revocation of the driver's license within the preceding 36 months • No convictions for traffic violations causing a fatal traffic collision • No convictions for driving with a revoked or suspended license or driving under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance within the past 5 years
District requirements	None
Endorsements	Limited to Driver's Education courses
Renewal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suicide awareness and prevention training • 3 continuing education credits (45 clock hours of training) • No traffic-related convictions (same as initial certificate) • \$25 for 5-year renewal certificate

[Return to Overview](#)

International Exchange Teacher Permit

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"> • Completion of an approved suicide awareness and prevention training • Valid J1 or H1B Visa • Citizenship outside the United States • U.S. equivalent of a bachelor's degree or higher as shown by an evaluation completed by an approved foreign transcript evaluation agency • Foreign educator credential in a teaching field comparable to those recognized in South Dakota • Receive an offer of employment in a South Dakota district
District requirements	Provide verification of Intent to Employ
Endorsements	May receive endorsements based on reciprocity. Additional endorsements may be added if requirements are met.
Renewal requirements	Non-renewable. May apply for a 5-year teaching certificate if South Dakota Indian Studies course has been completed.

[Return to Overview](#)

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	Completion of an approved 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 and recommended for licensure by a regionally-accredited institution of higher education offering a teacher education program in Lakota Studies	X	X
	Recommended for licensure to teach Lakota, Dakota, or Nakota oral and written language and culture by an indigenous language board or similar organization recognized by 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	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) • 6 semester hours of coursework including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understanding deaf cultures ○ 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"> • 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 • 6 semester hours of coursework including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction to teaching students who are blind ○ Methodology of teaching elementary reading ○ 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"> • Suicide awareness and prevention training • 3 continuing education credits (45 clock hours of training) • \$25 for 5-year renewal certificate

Alternative Certification Paths

General Education	Leads to a secondary or K-12 preparation. Not intended for individuals who want to teach CTE. 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 CTE preparation. Individuals going through this pathway may also add endorsements for other areas such as math, science, etc. 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.
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.
Special Education	Applicants must have a valid teaching certificate and 3 years of teaching experience within the past 5 years.

Alternative Certification Process

Steps	Applications
1	Complete Alternative Preliminary Initial Application <i>(not required for SPED)</i>
2	Complete Initial Alternative Certification Application <i>(following offer of employment by a district)</i>
3	Complete Alternative Certification Renewal Application <i>(if needed)</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	
Elementary music, physical education, computers, health, etc.	X	X	X*	
Secondary 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 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		X	X	X	
Receive a job offer from a South Dakota school/district		X	X	X	X
Apply for Alternative Certificate (1-year certificate)	Suicide awareness and prevention training	X	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			X	
	National certification in related CTE field			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	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 (Beginning July 1, 2019)		General Education	TFA	CTE	SPED
Verify applicant has valid Alternative Preliminary Certificate		X	X	X	
Verify applicant has valid teaching certificate and 3 years of teaching experience in past 5 years					X
Document 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 applicant with information about South Dakota Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers		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		X	X	X	X
Applicant requirements to Complete the Program (Beginning July 1, 2019)		General Education	TFA	CTE	SPED
Pass state-designated pedagogy test		X	X	X	X
Pass state-designated Special Education content test					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 9 transcribed credits with a C or higher in the following: Methods of CTE, Mentored Internship, Adolescent Psychology, Classroom Management, Student Assessment, Differentiated Instruction				X	
Complete a 6-credit, year-long SPED practicum and 9 credits of coursework in SPED law, SPED assessment, and SPED education-related course					X
Receive sign-off from employing district		X	X	X	X

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 • 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"> • Suicide awareness and prevention training • 3 continuing education credits (45 clock hours of training) • \$25 for 5-year renewal certificate

<i>Superintendent Alternative Certification</i>	
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 ● Pass state-designated content test ● Completion of an approved suicide awareness and prevention training
District requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Verify applicant has a valid Alternative Preliminary Certificate, teaching certificate or K-12 Principal 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 program
Renewal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pass state-designated test prior to first renewal ● Suicide awareness and prevention training ● 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 program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3-credit approved South Dakota Indian Studies course ● 18 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"> ○ 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

K-12 Principal 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 program ● 3 or more years of teaching experience ● Pass state-designated content test ● Completion of an approved suicide awareness and prevention training
District requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Verify applicant has a valid 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 program
Renewal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pass state-designated test prior to first renewal ● Suicide awareness and prevention training ● 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 program	<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

EDUCATION SPECIALISTS

[Return to Overview](#)

<i>School Counselor</i>	
Description	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.
Duration of certificate	5 years
Cost	\$60
Applicant eligibility requirements	Option 1: Completion of School Counselor Preparation Program Option 2: Master's degree or higher in Counseling and 1 year of supervision by a mentor school counselor. Must also pass state-designated test.
Endorsements	Allows individual to be referred to as a School Counselor
Renewal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> • 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)