

# GENERAL EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION

<b><i>Name of Certificate</i></b>	Certificate will be referred to as Educator Certification - Alternative Certification.
<b><i>Certificate Type</i></b>	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.
<b><i>Preparation Type</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Education Alternative Preparation (not completed)</li> <li>• Teacher (Secondary or K-12)</li> </ul>
<b><i>Duration and Expiration of Certificate</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-year Certificate which can be renewed two times</li> <li>• Certificates expire June 30<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>
<b><i>Fees</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$25 Initial Educator Certificate (1-year Certificate)</li> </ul>
<b><i>Certificate Holder Requirements</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have a valid Alternative Preliminary Certificate</li> <li>• Hold a minimum of a bachelor’s degree or higher; and</li> <li>• Receives an offer of employment from a public or Department-accredited school.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Scope of Certificate</i></b>	A general education alternative teaching certificate holder may not teach grades or content areas beyond the endorsements listed on the certificate.
<b><i>Authorization</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An applicant for a general education alternative certificate <u>may</u> teach in the following areas once the endorsement requirements are met:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grades 5-8 elementary teacher;</li> <li>▪ Secondary teacher; or</li> <li>▪ K-12 teacher.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• An applicant for a general education alternative certificate <u>may not</u> teach in the following areas:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Early childhood education;</li> <li>▪ K-4 self-contained or subject specific;</li> <li>▪ Early childhood special education; or</li> <li>▪ K-12 special education.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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## ***Employer Requirements***

- A school district or department-accredited school employing a general education 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***

- To advance from a general education alternative certificate to a professional teaching certificate, the applicant 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
  - Receive signoff from the employing school/district; and
  - Participate in a mentor program

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