

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF TEACHER QUALITY**

**Identifying “Highly Qualified Teachers” Under
The *No Child Left Behind Act* of 2001**

I. In General

- A. Applicability to Teachers: All teachers hired after the first day of the 2002-03 school year to teach core academic subjects in Title I school-wide programs or Title I targeted assistance programs must be highly qualified. In addition, all teachers hired after the first day of the 2002-03 school year, for the purpose of reducing class size, whose salaries are paid through *No Child Left Behind Act*, Improving Teacher Quality Grant funds, who teach core academic subjects, must be highly qualified. Finally, all teachers in all schools who teach core academic subjects must be highly qualified by the end of the 2005-06 school year and all schools must show annual progress towards having all core academic subject teachers highly qualified by the end of the 2005-06 school year. Teachers who instruct in the areas of physical education, health education, career and technology education, or driver education, as well as teachers who collaboratively instruct in the areas of gifted education or special education, are not required to meet the highly qualified requirement.
- B. Core Academic Subjects: The core academic subjects are: English, Reading or language arts, Mathematics, Science, Foreign languages, Civics, government, economics, history, geography, and the Arts¹.
- C. Standards for Being a Highly Qualified Teacher: A highly qualified teacher must 1) have earned at least a bachelor’s degree, 2) demonstrate content knowledge in each core content area he/she teaches, and 3) not have any waivers of the requirements for full state certification.
- D. Applicability to Schools. All schools that deliver content in the core academic areas, including alternative schools, special schools, South Carolina Governor’s Schools, and charter schools, are considered to be public schools, and, as such, are subject to the requirements of the *No Child Left Behind* legislation. Thus, all core academic teachers in such schools must be highly qualified in the content area(s) that they teach.
- E. Demonstrating Content Knowledge: A veteran teacher may demonstrate he/she has content knowledge by achieving one of the following:
1. a major in the content areas(s) taught (not applicable for early childhood or elementary teachers), by obtaining either:

¹ The Arts include Art, Dance, Music, and Speech and Drama.

- a. thirty or more semester hours earned in content area coursework at the junior or senior level or above, or
 - b. twenty-four or more semester hours earned in content area coursework at the graduate level; or
 2. a passing score on the content area examination(s) in which the teacher teaches (teachers who were certified in South Carolina prior to 1976 may not have taken a content area exam); or
 3. advanced degree or certification in the area(s) the teacher teaches, by obtaining either:
 - a. a master's, master's plus thirty, or doctorate in the area(s) that the teacher is teaching, or
 - b. National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification in a content area that the teacher is teaching; or
 4. successful completion of a high, objective, uniform state standard of evaluation (HOUSSE) in the content area(s)
 - a. Since 1998, South Carolina has had in place a statewide system of Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Professional Teaching (ADEPT).
 - b. To further develop ADEPT as the "high, objective, uniform state system of evaluation" (HOUSSE), South Carolina plans to add a "Content Area Evaluation" component that will:
 - i. include the following performance standards, relative to the specific content area:
 - ❖ Long-Range Planning
 - ❖ Selection, Development, and Use of Assessments
 - ❖ Using Appropriate Strategies to Facilitate Learning
 - ❖ Providing Content
 - ❖ Monitoring and Enhancing Student Learning; and
 - ii. involve a consensus-based process by which multiple trained evaluators will arrive at evaluation judgments, based on multiple methods of collecting data (including observations) over time, in order to obtain a representative sample of the teacher's content knowledge, skills, and dispositions.
- F. Designated Agency. The State Department of Education (SDE) is the designated entity responsible for issuing teacher certificates in the state of South Carolina, under the authority of the State Board of Education (State Statute Section 59-5-60).
- G. Substitute Teachers. A substitute teacher is anyone who holds a high school diploma or above and is hired by the Local Education Agency (LEA) to take the place of a classroom teacher for a period of time to be determined by the LEA. Because substitute teachers are not part of South Carolina's definition of a teacher, individuals serving as substitutes do not have to meet the requirements of being highly qualified. However, if substitutes teach in a particular classroom for more than four weeks in a Title I school-wide or targeted assistance program,

the school must notify parents that the students are being taught by individuals who are not highly qualified.

II. Certification

A. Credentials That Meet Standards. The SDE currently issues three types of teaching certificates that meet the certification requirement for being “highly qualified”:

1. Initial certificates are issued upon entry into the profession to applicants who have:
 - a. earned at least a bachelor’s degree from either:
 - i. an institution that has a state-approved teacher education program and is accredited for general collegiate purposes by a regional accreditation association, or
 - ii. a South Carolina institution that has programs approved for teacher education by the State Board of Education, or
 - iii. an institution that has programs approved for teacher education by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE); and
 - b. completed an approved/accredited teacher preparation program; and
 - c. passed the content area Praxis II examination(s)².
2. Critical Need certificates are issued to applicants who have:
 - a. earned at least a bachelor’s degree from a regionally or nationally accredited postsecondary institution in a content area in which a shortage of teachers, as approved by the State Board of Education, exists; and
 - b. passed the Praxis II examination(s)³ in the content area; and
 - c. been admitted into South Carolina’s Program for Alternative Certification of Educators (PACE); and
 - d. successfully complete a preservice institute.
3. Professional certificates are issued to candidates who hold an initial or critical needs teaching certificate, or who have met requirements under the interstate reciprocity agreement, upon their successful completion of:
 - a. at least two years of continuous, successful in-service teaching, including an induction year; and
 - b. the appropriate Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) examination⁴; and

² Passing scores for the Praxis II content area examinations are set by the State Board of Education.

³ *ibid.*

- c. the formal performance evaluation of professional teaching (ADEPT).

B. Waivers or Substandard Credentials. The following teaching certificates issued by the State of South Carolina do not meet the certification requirement for being *highly qualified*:

- 1. Out-of-State Temporary Certificates
- 2. Transitional Certificates
- 3. Out-of-Field Permits
- 4. Interim Certificates
- 5. Graded Certificates of “B,” “C,” or “D”
- 6. Warrants
- 7. Special Subject Certificates

A proposal has been submitted to the General Assembly to amend State Board of Education regulations to phase out all of the above waivers or substandard teaching certificates by July 1, 2006. Teachers who currently hold such teaching certificates may earn professional certification by fulfilling the appropriate requirements found in State Board of Education Regulations.

C. Certification Levels. South Carolina is in the process of transitioning certification grade levels, as follows:

Certification	Current Grade Levels	Grade Levels Beginning September 1, 2005
Early Childhood	PK–4	PK–3
Elementary	1–8	2–6
Middle Level	5–8 ⁵	5–8
Secondary	7–12	9–12

The SDE approves teacher education programs and issues teaching certificates with a “P–12” (all grades) designation in the core academic areas of foreign language, the arts, and reading. The “P–12” designation also applies to special education; however, at this time, it is not clear how the

⁴ The passing score for the Principles of Learning and Teaching examination is set by the State Board of Education.

⁵ Currently, middle level certification is issued, but will not be required until October 1, 2008.

requirements outlined in this document will pertain to special education teachers.

D. Interdisciplinary Certification. The South Carolina Department of Education currently issues an interdisciplinary certification in the area of Social Studies at the secondary level. In accordance with South Carolina's policy on standards-based teacher preparation, graduates of teacher education programs accredited using performance-based standards in these areas hold the equivalent of an academic major with sufficient credits in the related areas to be deemed *highly qualified*. Therefore, teachers who hold certification in social studies are considered highly qualified to instruct in history, civics, government, economics and geography at the appropriate grade level. Each social studies course in South Carolina includes curriculum standards in history, government, economics, and geography.

Interdisciplinary certificates also are issued in the area of Secondary Science, as follows:

1. Individuals who are certified in biology may teach courses in biological science and/or general comprehensive science.
2. Individuals who are certified in chemistry and physics may teach courses in chemistry, physics, and/or general comprehensive science.
3. Individuals who are certified in comprehensive science (which requires 30+ semester hours of study in science and a passing score on the Praxis II Biology and General Science examination [#0030] or the Chemistry Physics, and General Science examination [#0070]) may teach courses in any area of science.

Additionally, teachers who hold a secondary science certificate and who have three or more years of teaching experience during the past five years in the 7th or 8th grades are deemed qualified to teach middle school, based on their having passed the rigorous Praxis II examinations that include the science content of the 7th and 8th grade levels.

New Early Childhood or Elementary School Teachers Summary of Requirements for *Highly Qualified* Status

An early childhood or elementary school teacher who is *new*⁶ to the profession must hold South Carolina certification with no waivers and must demonstrate appropriate content knowledge by achieving a passing score on the following state approved content test(s)⁷:

For Elementary Education

- (a) Praxis II *Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment* Examination⁸ (#0011), and
- (b) Praxis II *Content Exercises for Elementary Teachers* (#0012);

OR

For Early Childhood Education

- (a) Praxis II *Early Childhood* Examination (#0020), and
- (b) Other content test(s) under consideration.

⁶ In this document, the term “new” refers to teachers who enter the profession after the first day of school in 2002-03.

⁷ Content exams used by other states may be accepted.

⁸ The Praxis II *Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment* examination provides evidence of a teacher’s content knowledge competence in the following areas: Reading and Language Arts Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Mathematics Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Science Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Social Studies Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Arts and Physical Education Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; and General Information about Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. Additional information about this examination may be viewed at the following Web site: <http://www.ets.org/praxis/taags/prx0011.html>.

New Middle and Secondary School Teachers Summary of Requirements for *Highly Qualified* Status

A middle or secondary school teacher who is *new*⁹ to the profession must hold South Carolina certification with no waivers and must demonstrate appropriate content knowledge by achieving one of the following options for each subject area in which the teacher teaches:

1. a passing score on a content examination in each core academic subject in which the teacher teaches¹⁰; or
2. a major in the content area(s) in each core academic subject in which the teacher teaches, or coursework equivalent to an undergraduate major, as established and verified by the Division of Teacher Quality; or
3. a master's, master's plus thirty, or doctorate in the core academic content area(s) in which the teacher teaches.

⁹ In this document, the term “new” refers to teachers who enter the profession after the first day of the school in 2002-03.

¹⁰ Additional content exams used by other states may be accepted. A complete listing of the required examinations approved by the State Board of Education may be found in Appendix A.

**New Self Contained or Resource Special Education Teachers
at the Early Childhood or Elementary Level
Summary of Requirements for *Highly-Qualified* Status**

An early childhood or elementary level special education teacher who teaches in a self-contained or resource classroom who is new¹¹ to the profession must hold South Carolina certification with no waivers and must demonstrate appropriate content knowledge by achieving a passing score on the following state approved content test(s)¹²:

For Elementary Level Special Education

- (a) Praxis II Elementary Education: Curriculum Instruction and Assessment Examination¹³ (#0011), and
- (b) Praxis II Content Exercises for Elementary Teachers (#0012)

OR

For Early Childhood Level Special Education

- (a) Praxis II Early Childhood Examination (#0020), and
- (b) Other content test(s) under consideration.

¹¹ In this document, the term “new” refers to teachers who enter the profession after the first day of school in 2002-03.

¹² Content exams used by other states may be accepted.

¹³ The Praxis II *Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment* examination provides evidence of a teacher’s content knowledge competence in the following areas: Reading and Language Arts Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Mathematics Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Science Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Social Studies Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Arts and Physical Education Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; and General Information about Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. Additional information about this examination may be viewed at the following Web site: <http://www.ets.org/praxis/taags/prx0011.html>.

**New Self-Contained or Resource Special Education Teachers
at the Middle or Secondary Level
Summary of Requirements of *Highly Qualified* Status**

A middle or secondary level special education teacher who teaches in a self-contained or resource classroom who is new¹⁴ to the profession must hold South Carolina certification with no waivers and must demonstrate appropriate content knowledge by achieving one of the following options for each subject area in which the teacher teaches:

1. a passing score on a content examination in each core academic subject in which the teacher teaches¹⁵; or
2. a major in the content area(s) in each core academic subject in which the teacher teaches, or coursework equivalent to an undergraduate major, as established and verified by the Division of Teacher Quality; or
3. a Master's, Master's Plus Thirty, or doctorate in the core academic content area(s) in which the teacher teaches.

¹⁴ In this document, the term “new” refers to teachers who enter the profession after the first day of the school in 2002-03.

¹⁵ Additional content exams used by other states may be accepted. A complete listing of the required examinations approved by the State Board of Education may be found in Appendix A.

New “P–12” Core Academic Subject¹⁶ Teachers Summary of Requirements for *Highly Qualified* Status

A “P–12” core academic subject teacher who is *new*¹⁷ to the profession must hold South Carolina certification with no waivers and must demonstrate appropriate content knowledge by achieving one of the following options:

1. a passing score on the content examination for certification in the core academic subject¹⁸; or
2. a major in the content area(s) or coursework equivalent to an undergraduate major, as established and verified by the Division of Teacher Quality; or
3. a master’s, master’s plus thirty, or doctorate in the subject area the teacher is teaching.

¹⁶ “P-12” core academic subjects include music, art, foreign language, and reading. The “P-12” designation also applies to special education; however, at this time, it is not clear how the requirements outlined in this document pertain to special education teachers since the U.S. Department of Education has yet to issue guidance relative to this area.

¹⁷ In this document, the term “new” refers to teachers who enter the profession after the first day of school in 2002-03.

¹⁸ Content area exams from other states may be accepted.

Veteran Early Childhood and Elementary School Teachers Summary of Requirements for *Highly Qualified* Status

An early childhood or elementary school teacher who is a veteran in the profession must hold South Carolina certification with no waivers and must demonstrate appropriate content knowledge by achieving one of the following options:

1. a passing score on the state-approved certification examinations for subject knowledge and teaching skills in reading/language arts, writing, mathematics, and other areas relative to the early childhood and elementary school curriculum; or

For Elementary Education

- (a) NTE Education in the Elementary School, or
- (b) Praxis II *Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment* Examination¹⁹ (#0011), or
- (c) Praxis II *Content Exercises for Elementary Teachers* (#0012);

OR

For Early Childhood Education

- (a) Praxis II *Early Childhood* Examination (#0020), and
 - (b) Other content test(s) under consideration; or
2. a master's, master's plus thirty, or doctorate in early childhood or elementary education (e.g., if teaching early childhood, advanced degree must be in early childhood; if teaching elementary, advanced degree must be in elementary); or
 3. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification for the specific age range the teacher is teaching; or
 4. successful performance on the "high, objective, uniform state standard of evaluation" (i.e. the "Content Area Evaluation" of the Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Professional Teaching [ADEPT] system) in each subject the teacher is teaching.

¹⁹ The Praxis II *Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment* examination provides evidence of a teacher's content knowledge competence in the following areas: Reading and Language Arts Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Mathematics Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Science Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Social Studies Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Arts and Physical Education Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; and General Information about Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. Additional information about this examination may be viewed at the following Web site: <http://www.ets.org/praxis/taags/prx0011.html>.

Veteran Middle or Secondary School Teachers Summary of Requirements for *Highly Qualified* Status

A middle or secondary school teacher who is a veteran in the profession must hold South Carolina certification with no waivers and must demonstrate appropriate content knowledge by achieving one of the following options for each subject area in which the teacher teaches:

1. a passing score on the state-approved Praxis II content examination(s)²⁰ in each core academic subject in which the teacher teaches; or
2. a major in the content area(s) in each core academic subject in which the teacher teaches; or
3. a master's, master's plus thirty, or doctorate in each core academic subject in which the teacher teaches; or
4. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification for the specific age range and content area the teacher is teaching; or
5. successful performance on the "high, objective, uniform state standard of evaluation" (i.e., the "Content Area Evaluation" of the Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Professional Teaching [ADEPT] system) in each core academic subject in which the teacher teaches.

²⁰ Additional content exams used by other states may be accepted. A complete listing of the required examinations approved by the State Board of Education may be found in Appendix A.

**Veteran Self-Contained or Resource Special Education Teachers
at the Early Childhood or Elementary Level
Summary of Requirements for *Highly Qualified* Status**

An early childhood or elementary level special education teachers who teaches in a self-contained or resource classroom who is a veteran in the profession must hold South Carolina certification with no waivers and must demonstrate appropriate content knowledge by achieving one of the following options:

1. a passing score on the state-approved certification examinations for subject knowledge and teaching skills in reading/language arts, writing, mathematics, and other areas relative to the early childhood and elementary school curriculum; or

For Elementary Education

- (a) NTE Education in the Elementary School, or
- (b) Praxis II *Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment* Examination²¹ (#0011), or
- (c) Praxis II *Content Exercises for Elementary Teachers* (#0012);

OR

For Early Childhood Education

- (a) Praxis II *Early Childhood* Examination (#0020), and
 - (b) Other content test(s) under consideration; or
2. a master's, master's plus thirty, or doctorate in early childhood or elementary education (e.g., if teaching early childhood, advanced degree must be in early childhood; if teaching elementary, advanced degree must be in elementary); or
 3. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification for the specific age range the teacher is teaching; or
 4. successful performance on the "high, objective, uniform state standard of evaluation" (i.e. the "Content Area Evaluation" of the Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Professional Teaching [ADEPT] system) in each subject the teacher is teaching.

²¹ The Praxis II *Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment* examination provides evidence of a teacher's content knowledge competence in the following areas: Reading and Language Arts Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Mathematics Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Science Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Social Studies Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Arts and Physical Education Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; and General Information about Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. Additional information about this examination may be viewed at the following Web site: <http://www.ets.org/praxis/taags/prx0011.html>.

**Veteran Self-Contained or Resource Special Education Teachers
at the Middle or Secondary Level
Summary of Requirements for *Highly Qualified* Status**

A middle or secondary level special education teacher who teaches in a self-contained or resource classroom who is a veteran in the profession must hold South Carolina certification with no waivers and must demonstrate appropriate content knowledge by achieving one of the following options:

1. a passing score on the state-approved Praxis II content examination(s)²² in each core academic subject in which the teacher teaches; or
2. a major in the content area(s) in each core academic subject in which the teacher teaches; or
3. a master's, master's plus thirty, or doctorate in each core academic subject in which the teacher teaches; or
4. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification for the specific age range and content area the teacher is teaching; or
5. successful performance on the "high, objective, uniform state standard of evaluation" (i.e., the "Content Area Evaluation" of the Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Professional Teaching [ADEPT] system) in each core academic subject in which the teacher teaches.

²² Additional content exams used by other states may be accepted. A complete listing of the required examinations approved by the State Board of Education may be found in Appendix A.

Veteran “P-12” Core Academic Subject²³ Teachers Summary of Requirements for *Highly Qualified* Status

A “P-12” core academic subject teacher who is a veteran in the profession shall hold South Carolina certification with no waivers and must demonstrate appropriate content knowledge by achieving one of the following options:

1. a passing score on the state-approved Praxis II content examination in each core academic subject in which the teacher teaches²⁴; or
2. a major in the content area in each core academic subject in which the teacher teaches; or
3. a master’s, master’s plus thirty, or doctorate in the subject area the teacher is teaching in each core academic subject in which the teacher teaches; or
4. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification in the specific content area the teacher is teaching; or
5. successful performance on the “high, objective, uniform state standard of evaluation” (i.e., the “Content Area Evaluation” of the Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Professional Teaching [ADEPT] system) in each core academic subject in which the teacher teaches.

²³ “P-12” core academic subjects include music, art, foreign language, and reading. The “P-12” designation also applies to special education; however, at this time, the requirements of this document do not pertain to special education teachers since the U.S. Department of Education has yet to issue guidance relative to this area.

²⁴ Additional content exams used by other states may be accepted. A complete listing of the required examinations approved by the State Board of Education may be found in Appendix A.

Appendix A

ACCEPTABLE CONTENT TESTS²⁵
NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Art (P–12)

NTE in Art Education
Praxis II in Art: Content Knowledge
Praxis II in Art: Art Making

Dance

No examination has been validated for Dance.

Early Childhood Education

NTE in Early Childhood Education
Praxis II in Early Childhood Education

Elementary Education

NTE in Education in the Elementary School
Praxis II in Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Praxis II in Elementary Education: Content Area Exercises

English/Language Arts (including Middle Level)

NTE in English Language and Literature
Praxis II in English Language, Literature, and Composition: Content Knowledge
Praxis II in English Language, Literature, and Composition: Essays
Praxis II in Middle School English/Language Arts

Foreign Languages: French, German, Latin, and Spanish (P–12)

SC Teaching Area Examination in German
SC Teaching Area Examination in Latin
NTE in French
NTE in Spanish
Praxis II in French: Content Knowledge
Praxis II in French: Productive Language
Praxis II in German: Content Knowledge
Praxis II in German: Productive Language
Praxis II in Spanish: Content Knowledge
Praxis II in Spanish: Productive Language
No Praxis Examination has been validated for Latin.

²⁵ The NTE Commons Examination which was used for certification in South Carolina from the 1950's until 1979 would not be acceptable as a content examination. This examination included only interdisciplinary general content and was not specific to any subject field. The Commons Examination was used solely for the purpose of determining the level of a certificate ("A," "B," "C," or "D").

Mathematics (including Middle Level)

NTE in Mathematics

Praxis II in Mathematics: Content Knowledge

Praxis II in Mathematics: Proofs, Models, Problems Part I

Praxis II in Middle School Mathematics

Music (P–12)

NTE in Music Education

Praxis II in Music: Content Knowledge

Praxis II in Music: Concepts and Processes

Reading

NTE in Introduction to the Teaching of Reading

Praxis II in Introduction to the Teaching of Reading

Science/Biology/Chemistry/Physics (including Middle Level)

NTE in Biology and General Science

NTE in Chemistry, Physics, and General Science

Praxis II in Biology and General Science

Praxis II in Chemistry, Physics, and General Science

Praxis II in Middle School Science

Social Studies (including Middle Level)

SC Teaching Area Examination in Psychology

NTE in Social Studies

Praxis II in Social Studies: Content

Praxis II in Social Studies: Interpretation of Materials

Praxis II in Middle School Social Studies

Speech and Drama

SC Teaching Area Examination in Speech and Drama

No NTE or Praxis examinations have been validated for Speech or Drama.