



## Teacher License Reciprocity

Does the state require out-of-state teachers to take additional assessments?

June 2020

Forty-three states and the District of Columbia require that some or all out-of-state teacher candidates take additional assessments prior to entering a classroom, or within a certain number of years of teaching. View the full 50-State Comparison: Teacher License Reciprocity [here](#).

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<a href="#">STATE</a> ↑	<a href="#">Does the state require out-of-state teachers to take additional assessments?</a>	<a href="#">Source</a>
Alabama	Yes, but not for all candidates. Candidates must either: 1) pass the Alabama-prescribed content knowledge test; 2) verify a content knowledge test was passed for issuance of a valid professional educator certificate in the candidate's issuing state; or 3) request a review of his/her professional work experience in place of these assessment requirements.	Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-2-.20 <a href="#">Source</a>
Alaska	Yes, but not for all candidates and not immediately. Teacher candidates must provide evidence of satisfying a basic competency exam to extend an initial out-of-state certificate past one year or apply for a professional license.	Alaska Stat. Ann. § 14.20.015 Alaska Admin. Code tit. 4, § 12.310 <a href="#">Source</a>
Arizona	No. Arizona offers full reciprocity for out-of-state teachers. However, candidates who do not meet the requirements for reciprocity in Arizona may be required to pass a professional knowledge and a subject knowledge test. Arizona exempts candidates from exam requirements if the person has: 1) passed corresponding portions of a substantially similar exam in another state; 2) has been a full-time teacher in any state for at least three years in the same area of certification; or 3) can demonstrate subject knowledge proficiency through prior teaching experience, attainment of relevant degrees, or content-related work experience. The state board of education may grant a standard teaching certificate for at least three years to a teacher who has not met the requirements of this section at the time of application.	Ariz. Rev. Stat Ann. § 15-533
Arkansas	Yes, but not for all candidates and not immediately. Arkansas law requires candidates to pass state licensure exams prior to receiving a standard five-year teaching license unless they have a valid license and three years of teaching experience. The State Board can issue a provisional license to out-of-state teachers working to complete the assessments if all other requirements for licensure are met.	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-403 <a href="#">Source</a>
California	Yes, but not for all candidates and not immediately. Out-of-state candidates must meet basic skills requirements unless they have passed a basic skills examination administered by the state where they are credentialed. Candidates who have not passed the basic skills examination administered by their sending state must pass a California basic skills examination within one year of receiving a preliminary teaching credential. In order to receive a standard teaching credential, applicants must also meet state requirements for teaching English learners, which can include passage of one or more examinations.	Cal.Educ.Code § 44274.2 Cal. Educ. Code § 44252 Cal. Educ. Code § 44253.3
Colorado	Yes, but not for all candidates and not immediately. Applicants with a valid out-of-state license and at least three years of recent teaching experience in a content area that correlates with a Colorado endorsement area do not have to take state licensing exams. Applicants who do not meet these criteria may receive an interim authorization and teach for up to one year while preparing for a taking the required exam(s).	Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-60.5-201 1 Colo. Code Regs. § 301-37:2.00 <a href="#">Source</a>

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Connecticut	Yes, but not all candidates and not immediately. Additional assessment requirements are in place only for certain endorsements, and candidates are not required to take the Connecticut assessment if they passed an equivalent exam in another state. Out-of-state educators who taught successfully for at least three of the past ten years under an appropriate certificate in another state may be exempt from testing requirements. Applicants who meet all certification criteria except assessment requirements may be issued an interim certificate with a deferral for testing.	Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10-145f <a href="#">Source</a>
Delaware	Yes, but not for all candidates and not immediately. Out-of-state candidates with less than one year of teaching experience must pass an approved performance assessment within the first two years. Applicants whose credentials are not accepted under reciprocity must submit passing scores on approved subject matter competency assessments.	Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 1210 <a href="#">Source</a>
District of Columbia	Yes, but not for all candidates. Candidates whose sending states did not require equivalent assessments to the licensure exams required by the District of Columbia are required to complete DC's licensure exam for the missing area(s) prior to the issuance of a DC teaching license/credential.	<a href="#">Source 1</a> <a href="#">Source 2</a> <a href="#">Source 3</a>
Florida	No.	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1012.56 <a href="#">Source</a>
Georgia	Yes, but not for all candidates. Candidates must take an approved content assessment unless they meet one of the following exemptions: 1) have worked full-time in their certificate field for five years, 2) were already required to take a content assessment for their out-of-state certificate, 3) hold National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification, or 4) are seeking certification in a subject that does not have an approved content assessment. Out-of-state candidates might also be required to take a Georgia Educator Ethics Assessment.	Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 505-2-.05 Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 505-2-.24 <a href="#">Source</a>
Hawaii	No. However, candidates may use certain assessments to meet requirements to show basic skills and content knowledge.	<a href="#">Source</a>
Idaho	Yes, but not for all candidates. Idaho requires candidates to demonstrate content mastery in an endorsed area through content area testing. The requirement may be waived for candidates who have already taken and passed a content area assessment or candidates who hold a current National Board for Professional Standards Teaching Certificate. The state gives a three-year interim license to out-of-state teachers who have not met the assessment requirements.	Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.02.017 <a href="#">Source</a>
Illinois	Yes, but not for all candidates and not immediately. To receive a Professional Educator License, candidates must show proof of completing content area test(s) and performance assessment resulting in licensure in their sending state, or receive passing scores on the Illinois-approved assessments. Requirements for the performance assessment are waived for candidates who have at least one year of teaching experience and have achieved the equivalent of a "proficient" rating or higher on their most recent performance evaluation.	105 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/21B-20 105 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/21B-35 <a href="#">Source 1</a> <a href="#">Source 2</a>
Indiana	Yes, but not for all candidates. Out-of-State teachers who obtained a license in another state by completing a state approved educator preparation program or a state approved alternative preparation program and were required to pass a licensure test in their content area(s), may be eligible for "full" licensure. Candidates who have not passed a content test will be required to do so prior to obtaining licensure.	Ind. Code Ann. § 20-28-5-18 and Ind. Code Ann. § 20-28-5-19 <a href="#">Source</a>
Iowa	Yes, but not for all candidates. Out-of-state candidates who have less than three years of teaching experience on a valid license and who completed their teacher preparation program after January 1, 2013 must pass the Iowa mandated assessment by meeting the minimum score set by the Iowa department of education.	Iowa Admin. Code r. 282-13.5(272)
Kansas	Yes, but not for all candidates and not immediately. Candidates not meeting set experience requirements must pass content and pedagogy assessments in order to be eligible for an Initial License or content, pedagogy and performance assessments in order to be eligible for a Professional License. Comparable out-of-state assessments are accepted. Candidates are exempted from assessment requirements and may be eligible for a Professional License if they: 1) have three years of teaching experience within the past 6 years; or 2) have five years of teaching experience total. Candidates working to complete assessment requirements may still qualify for a license allowing full-time employment.	Kan. Admin. Regs. 91-1-204 <a href="#">Source</a>

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Kentucky	Yes, but not for all candidates. Out-of-state applicants who hold a valid certificate and who have completed two years of full-time teaching in the subject area and grade level on their certificate are exempt from testing requirements. Candidates without this experience are required to pass the Kentucky PRAXIS testing requirements.	16 KAR 4:030 <a href="#">Source 1</a> <a href="#">Source 2</a>
Louisiana	Yes, but not immediately. Out-of-state candidates who have met assessment requirements are eligible to receive a standard, three-year teaching certificate ("Level 1 Professional Certificate") comparable in level and subject. Candidates who have not met assessment requirements may teacher under a standard, three-year non-renewable teaching certificate ("Out-of-State Certificate") while working towards completing assessment requirements. Candidates with a valid out-of-state teaching certificate and at least three years of "successful" teaching experience as verified by satisfactory annual evaluation results do not have to meet additional testing requirements after teaching on an Out-of-State Certificate for one year.	<a href="#">Source</a>
Maine	Yes. Out-of-state candidates are required to pass content assessments. Candidates seeking a certificate in the same endorsement area as that held in their sending state are not required to take the basic skills or pedagogy exams. Out-of-state candidates not meeting assessment requirements are granted a Conditional License.	05-071 CMR Ch. 13, § 13.3
Maryland	Yes, but not for all candidates. Out-of-state candidates who do not have a professional certificate and three years of experience within the last seven years must present qualifying scores on basic skills, content, and pedagogy assessments.	<a href="#">Source 1</a> <a href="#">Source 2</a>
Massachusetts	Yes, but not always immediately. Out-of-state candidates must receive a passing score on the Communication and Literacy Skills test and the subject matter knowledge test(s) appropriate to the license sought. Candidates with at least three years of employment under a valid out-of-state license or certificate may be eligible for a Temporary License while he/she completes the required assessments. The Temporary License is not available to candidates who fail any of the required state licensure tests.	603 Mass. Code Regs. 7.04
Michigan	Yes, but not for all candidates. Candidates who have three years of successful teaching experience are eligible for a Professional License and are not required to meet additional assessment requirements if they have completed a specified number semester hours in a program since the issuance of their initial, standard teaching certificate and hold a comparable valid certificate from another state. All other candidates must pass the appropriate subject area tests, or approved alternatives, to be eligible for licensure. (Applicants who hold a valid, standard teaching certificate from another state but who have not met assessment requirements can be issued a Temporary Teacher Employment Authorization and teach for one year while completing assessment requirements.)	Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 380.1531 <a href="#">Source</a>
Minnesota	Yes, but not immediately. Out-of-state candidates are required to achieve a passing score on MLTE pedagogy and content licensure exams. An out-of-state teacher may apply for a Tier 2 license prior to passing the MTLE content and pedagogy exams if they have met all Tier 2 licensure requirements and have been offered a position by a Minnesota public school district or charter school.	<a href="#">Source</a>
Mississippi	No. Except that out-of-state candidates who cannot show 1) documentation of a passing score on a core subject test required for certification by the issuing state, or 2) documentation that verifies the out-of-state license was obtained in a manner equivalent with current Mississippi license guidelines, are only eligible to receive a nonrenewable Two Year Reciprocity License until they can meet the Mississippi licensure requirements, which could include passing state licensure assessments. Applicants meeting these requirements are granted a Five Year (Standard) Reciprocity License.	Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2 <a href="#">Source</a>
Missouri	No.	
Montana	Yes. Applicants who completed an accredited educator preparation program in another state must provide proof of a minimum passing score on the required content knowledge test applicable to the requested endorsement in order to be eligible for a Provisional, Standard or Professional License. Applicants for a Provisional License must also submit evidence of a current Montana address or job offer from an accredited or state-funded P-12 school in Montana.	Mont. Admin. R. 10.57.410 Mont. Admin. R. 10.57.411 Mont. Admin. R. 10.57.424
Nebraska	Yes, but not immediately. Out-of-state candidates must pass the required basic skills and content assessments in order to qualify for an Initial, Standard or Professional License. Candidates may be eligible to receive a Provisional License while working towards meeting assessment requirements.	<a href="#">Source</a>

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Nevada	No. An out-of-state applicant is exempt from licensure assessment requirements if the applicant successfully passed the examination(s) in his/her sending state. Most valid and unexpired licenses will directly transfer without verification of passing licensure examinations. However, some conditional, provisional, residency, temporary, or other license types will require additional documentation to determine eligibility.	N.R.S. 391.019 N.R.S. 391.021 <a href="#">Source</a>
New Hampshire	Yes, but not for all candidates. Out-of-state candidates must submit passing scores on the required basic skills assessment, or an equivalent. Some subject area endorsements require a passing score on the required content assessment, or an equivalent, in order to qualify for a certificate.	N.H. Code Admin. R. Ed §505.02 N.H. Code Admin. R. Ed § 514.01 <a href="#">Source</a>
New Jersey	Yes, but not for all candidates and not immediately. Candidates seeking a "Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing" are exempt from the state performance assessment if they: 1) submit evidence of having passed a performance assessment approved by their issuing state; or 2) hold National Board for Professional Teacher Standards or the Meritorious Teacher Candidate designation, and 3) graduated prior to September 1, 2017. Candidates who did not take a state-approved performance assessment because it was not required are issued a "Certificate of Eligibility", subject to meeting other requirements. Out-of-state candidates must also pass the relevant New Jersey subject matter tests or submit evidence of passing their issuing state's subject matter test.	N.J. Admin. Code § 6A:9B-8.8 <a href="#">Source</a>
New Mexico	Yes, but not for all candidates and not immediately. Candidates applying for an elementary license are required to take and pass one of two accepted reading content tests. Candidates applying for a certain Level 1 licenses can submit evidence of completing credit hour, coursework requirements, or teaching experience in place of content knowledge assessment requirements (with requirements varying depending on licensure type.) Candidates applying for a Level 2 or Level 3 License can submit evidence of completing credit hour requirements in place of assessment requirements.	N.M. Admin. Code 6.60.4
New York	Yes, but not for all candidates. Candidates who do not meet specified experience requirements must take and pass certification exams. However, candidates who have completed a substantially equivalent, approved out-of-state teacher education program, hold a valid out-of-state license, and passed the certification exams other than the teacher performance assessment, may earn a one-year nonrenewable conditional initial certificate, allowing them to teach while completing the required performance assessment. Candidates are not required to take and pass certification exams if they have at least three years of effective public school teaching experience in the certificate title sought within the last seven years, hold an equivalent and valid out-of-state license that was valid during the experience, and have at least a bachelor's degree with a 2.5 cumulative GPA.	N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 8, § 80-5.8
North Carolina	Yes, but not for all candidates and not immediately. Candidates are exempt from testing required for a Continuing Professional License if they: 1) are fully licensed in another state, have three or more years of experience, and have met comparable or identical testing requirements in another state; or 2) hold National Board Certification. Out-of-state candidates with less than three years of experience can be issued an Initial Professional License and may be required to take additional exams. If additional exams are required, they must be taken within the first year of issuance and passed before or during the second year in order to convert the license to a Continuing Professional License. Candidates applying for Elementary Education or Exceptional Children General Curriculum licenses are subject to additional assessments.	16 N.C. Admin. Code 6C.0316
North Dakota	Yes, but not for all candidates and not immediately. Candidates applying for an Out-of-State Reciprocal License who completed a bachelor's in education in another state, but do not have a teaching license, will be issued a once-renewable 2-year license and must complete all North Dakota state tests for licensure within 4 years. Candidates applying for an Out-of-State Educator License who were not required to take tests for licensure are required to complete North Dakota state tests within 2 years. If candidates applying for this license have completed an approved program, including student teaching, hold a license in another state, and have met their testing requirements, there will be no additional requirements.	N.D. Admin. Code 67.1-02-06-03 N.D. Admin. Code 67.1-02-06-01 <a href="#">Source</a>
Ohio	Yes. Out-of-state applicants who have not completed a content assessment and professional knowledge/pedagogy assessment for licensure in their issuing state must take the state-approved assessments. Candidates requesting licensure in Early Childhood, Middle Childhood, or Intervention Specialist must also pass the Ohio Assessment for Educators Foundations of Reading exam.	<a href="#">Source</a>
Oklahoma	No. Candidates who hold an out-of-state certificate are eligible for a certification in Oklahoma's most equivalent subject areas and are exempt from the required competency exam.	Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 6-190

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Oregon	Yes, but not immediately. A one-year Reciprocal Teaching License is issued to teachers who have completed an educator preparation program and hold an active and valid non-provisional teaching license in another NASDTEC jurisdiction. Some applicants may qualify for a preliminary license, but in order to receive a preliminary or professional license, all candidates must pass the "Protecting Student and Civil Rights in the Educational Environment" exam or an approved alternative assessment, and some candidates must pass Oregon-approved subject matter tests. A waiver to the subject-matter testing requirements may be provided if the applicant 1) provides evidence of a passing score on a subject-matter test approved by another NASDTEC jurisdiction resulting in licensure, or 2) can prove evidence of academic preparation and five years of teaching experience in the specific subject matter while properly licensed.	Or. Admin. R. 584-220-0015 Or. Admin. R. 584-210-0060 <a href="#">Source</a>
Pennsylvania	Yes, but not for all candidates. Out of state candidates, including candidates meeting specified experience requirements, must take the required content tests and meet the state's qualifying score. Candidates not meeting experience requirements may also be required to take the basic skills test. National Board Certified teachers are exempt from Pennsylvania content tests, and post-baccalaureate instructional program completers are exempt from the basic skills test. While administrative code allows for a one-year temporary teaching permit to be issued to educators in accordance with the current reciprocity agreement with other states to allow the teacher to meet Pennsylvania's requirements, the policy is not currently in use.	22 Pa. Code § 49.65 <a href="#">Source</a>
Rhode Island	Yes, but not immediately. Candidates must demonstrate that they meet Rhode Island testing requirements in the area(s) of certification. For candidates prepared at an institution where the language of instruction was not English, English Language Competency testing is required. Out-of-state candidates may be eligible to receive a one-year Temporary Initial Educator Certificate if they meet all of the requirements for an Initial Educator Certificate except for the assessment requirements.	200 R.I. Code R. 20-20-1.7 200 R.I. Code R. 20-20-1.8
South Carolina	Yes, but not for all candidates and not always immediately. All out-of-state candidates, regardless of experience, must submit evidence of passing the content and pedagogy assessments in their state. If no tests were required for certification in their issuing state, applicants must submit evidence of passing the approved South Carolina content assessment. Applicants with less than twenty-seven months of successful teaching experience within the last seven years will be issued an initial teaching certificate, but must take the pedagogy exam to advance to a professional certificate.	S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-51
South Dakota	Yes, but not for all candidates. Out-of-state candidates with a categorical or K-8 special education endorsement may be required to pass additional assessments for a K-12 special education endorsement. No additional assessments are required of candidates meeting the requirements for reciprocity.	<a href="#">Source 1</a> <a href="#">Source 2</a>
Tennessee	Yes, but not for all candidates and not immediately. Out-of-state educators who have completed an educator preparation program in another state, but do not hold a valid professional license must submit qualifying scores on all required assessments. Out-of-state educators who have a bachelor's degree and hold a valid professional level license from another state are not required to take assessments.	Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0520-02-03-.03 <a href="#">Source</a> Tennessee State Board of Education Policy 5.105: Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Tennessee State Board of Education Policy 5.502: Educator Licensure Policy
Texas	Yes, but not for all candidates and not immediately. Out-of-state applicants may apply for a one-year certificate to meet the state's testing requirements. Applicants must either: 1) pass the required Texas exams, 2) achieve an acceptable level of performance on a comparable exam, as determined by the Texas Education Agency, or 3) qualify for an exemption from Texas examination requirements through established commissioner's rules.	19 Tex. Admin. Code § 230.113 19 Tex. Admin. Code §152.1001 <a href="#">Source</a>
Utah	Yes, but not for all candidates. Out-of-state applicants must pass the required content knowledge test and pedagogical performance assessment, or have evidence of passing a reasonably equivalent assessment. Out-of-state applicants with one year of successful teaching experience do not have to take additional exams.	Utah Admin. Code r. R277-301-6 <a href="#">Source</a>
Vermont	Yes, but not for all candidates. Applicants from a NASDTEC state who are not licensed are considered for licensure as if they had completed an approved educator preparation program in Vermont. These applicants are subject to the same requirements for initial licensees awarded in Vermont including testing.	7-1 Vt. Code R. § 13

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Source

Virginia

Yes, but not for all candidates. All professional teacher's assessments prescribed by the Board of Education must be satisfied by out-of-state candidates with less than three years of full-time, successful teaching experience in a public or accredited nonpublic school. Individuals with an out-of-state license with full credentials and without deficiencies shall not be required to take any additional assessments.

8 Va. Admin. Code 20-23-100  
Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-298.1

Washington

Yes, but not for all candidates and not immediately. Applicants must pass a basic skills and content knowledge test (or approved alternative) within 12 months of being issued the first residency teacher temporary permit. An out-of-state certificated educator seeking certification in Washington may use a passing score from their state's teacher certification exam to meet Washington's basic skills or content knowledge test requirement.

Wash. Admin. Code 181-79A-257  
Wash. Admin. Code 181-01-001  
Wash. Admin. Code 181-02-001

Source

West Virginia

Yes, but not for all candidates. Out-of-state applicants who have completed a teacher preparation program and do not hold a valid license must take the West Virginia required assessments. Candidates may be exempt from testing requirements if they: 1) hold National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification; 2) hold a valid out-of-state certificate; 3) successfully completed three years of experience within the last seven years on an out-of-state professional certificate; or 4) hold an expired out-of-state certificate or equivalent. Candidates are also exempt from the basic skills and professional assessments if they have satisfied a passing score on the appropriate test as required in the state where the preparation program was completed.

W. Va. Code R. 126-136-10

Wisconsin

Yes, but not for all candidates. Applicants applying for the Out-of-state Pathway must provide passing scores all required Wisconsin tests, including basic skills and content knowledge tests. Passing scores on performance and content tests taken in another state will be honored in Wisconsin. A GPA of 3.0 may be used in lieu of a content exam for applicants who were not required to take a content exam. Additional content exams may be required for applicants in certain licensure areas. Out-of-state applicants who hold a valid license in another state are eligible for a provisional Tier II license through the License Based on Reciprocity Pathway without having to complete additional assessments.

Source

Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118.193

Wyoming

Yes. Out-of-state candidates must either complete a course or pass an examination on the constitutions of the United States and the state of Wyoming. Wyoming accepts out-of-state exams for licensure in their state. Candidates applying for certain licenses may be required to complete additional exams.

Source 1

Source 2