

Delaware Educator Licensure System: Incorporating the Provisional License

Effective 12/15/16

Title 14 of Delaware State Code requires all educators to be licensed and certified in the area they are teaching or supporting. By legislative Act signed on June 30, 2016, Title 14 as it relates to licensure and certification was amended. The revisions included: 1) Creating a one-year Provisional License for applicants who have not met the performance assessment requirement; 2) Redefining the length of time an educator is considered to be a novice, from a three-year time period to a four-year time period; 3) Expanding and strengthening support for novice educators; 4) Allowing Delaware's school districts and charter schools to continue to hire high-quality out-of-state candidates and support them as they meet performance assessment requirements in their first year of teaching; 5) Requiring the completion of an impact study designed to assess the correlation between the aforementioned revisions and the State's ongoing efforts to elevate the profession, improve educator preparation, and increase student growth and achievement.

A brief summary of the four-tiered licensure system¹, is as follows:

- **Tier One** – Provisional License (1 year)

- Awarded to an applicant who does not qualify for an Initial, Continuing or Advanced License and has:
 - completed a Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited 4-year college or university;
 - achieved a passing score on an examination of general knowledge;
 - achieved a passing score on a content-readiness exam; and
 - either completed a student teaching program or a State approved equivalent: (a) 91 days of long term teaching experience in lieu of student teaching (not for educators in core content areas); (b) enrolled and participating in an ARTC program; (c) applying for a Provisional License and certification as one of six identified specialists and completes the required practical experience.

If the provisional licensee intends to apply for an Initial License, a passing score on an approved performance assessment and completion of required professional development and mentoring activities must occur during the provisional licensure year.

- **Tier Two** – Initial License (3 years or 4 years)

- Awarded to an applicant (excluding those identified below) who has:
 - Met all the requirements for the Provisional License and, if applicable and available, achieved a passing score on an approved performance assessment (4 year Initial License); or
 - Achieved a passing score on an approved performance assessment and completed required professional development and mentoring activities during the provisional licensure year (3 year Initial License).
- Until such time as an applicable performance assessment is available, the following applicants for licensure and certification **do not** need to meet the performance assessment requirement and would be eligible for a four-year initial license if all other requirements are met: *Elementary School Counselor, Secondary School Counselor, School Reading Specialist, School Nurse, School Psychologist and School Social Worker.*

If the initial licensee intends to apply for a Continuing License, completion of required professional development and mentoring activities must occur during the term of the Initial License.

- **Tier Three** – Continuing License (5 years)

- Awarded to an applicant with an Initial License who has:
 - No more than 1 unsatisfactory annual evaluation during the periods of provisional and initial licensure; and
 - Completed required professional development and mentoring activities.
- For Renewal of a Continuing License and applicant must complete ninety (90) clock hours of approved professional development and other required professional development and mentoring activities.

- **Tier Four** – Advanced License (up to 10 years)

- Awarded to an applicant who has National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification. The term of an Advanced License is the same as the balance of the term of the educator's NBPTS certificate. Upon application, an

¹ This information is provided as a summary only. For detailed information, visit Title 14 of Delaware Code (<http://delcode.delaware.gov/title14/>) or Administrative Code - Professional Standards Board Regulations (<http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title14/1500/index.shtml#TopOfPage>).

Advanced License is renewed for an additional 10-year term, if the educator continues to meet the requirements. If the educator does not continue to meet the requirements, upon application, a Continuing License will be issued.

Note: All applicants for licensure, whether first time or renewal, shall complete a disclosure of criminal conviction history (affirmation).

The chart below provides possible pathways for licensure when applied to educators, library media specialists, skilled and technical sciences teachers, and licensed educators from out of state who are eligible for reciprocity.

Educator

<p>Option #1: Educator has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bachelor’s Degree 2. Passing score on an exam of General Knowledge 3. Passing score on a content-readiness exam 4. Student teaching or alternative 5. Passing score on an approved performance assessment <p>→ 4 year Initial License</p>	<p>Option #2: Educator has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bachelor’s Degree 2. Passing score on an exam of General Knowledge 3. Passing score on a content-readiness exam 4. Student teaching or alternative <p>→ 1 year Provisional License, then a 3 year Initial License (if a passing score on an approved performance assessment is achieved and required professional development and mentoring activities are completed during Provisional Year)</p>
<p>Then:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After 4 years teaching 2. Not more than one unsatisfactory summative evaluation 3. Completion of required professional development and mentoring <p>→ 5 Year Continuing License (renewable after 90 clock hours of professional development and other required professional development and mentoring)</p>	
<p>Then:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification (Optional) <p>→ 10 Year Advanced License</p>	

School Library Media Specialist (Specialist Example)

<p>Option #1: Educator:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holds a valid Delaware License (see Educator) 2. Holds a Master’s or Doctorate degree in an ALA approved program in School Library Media or holds a Masters or Doctorate degree in any area and has completed a DDOE approved School Library Media program which meets ALA standards 3. Has achieved a passing score on an approved performance assessment <p>→ 4 year Initial License</p>	<p>Option #2: Educator:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holds a valid Delaware License (See Educator) 2. Holds a Master’s or Doctorate degree in an ALA approved program in School Library Media or holds a Masters or Doctorate degree in any area and has completed a DDOE approved School Library Media program which meets ALA standards <p>→ 1 year Provisional License, then a 3 year Initial License (if a passing score on an approved performance assessment is achieved and required professional development and mentoring activities are completed during Provisional Year)</p>
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Skilled and Technical Sciences Teacher (STS)

<p>→ 1 year Provisional License / then an Initial License for up to 5 years</p> <p>STS teachers will be on a Provisional License for 1 year. While holding the Provisional License, the Educator must demonstrate progress towards meeting certification requirements. An Initial License may be issued for a period of up to 5 years to achieve a passing score on an approved performance assessment, complete remaining certification requirements and required professional development and mentoring activities.</p>

Out of State Teacher with a valid license from another state without a passing score on an approved performance assessment; first DE license

Educator with less than 1 year of experience	Educator with 1 or more years of experience	
<p>Option #1: Educator has less than 1 year of teaching experience</p> <p>→ 1 year Provisional License</p>	<p>Option #2: Educator has 1, 2, or 3 years of teaching experience:</p> <p>→ 4 year Initial License</p>	<p>Option #3: Educator has 4 or more years teaching experience:</p> <p>→ 5 year Continuing License</p>
<p>Then:</p> <p>→ 3 year Initial License (see above Educator chart for requirements)</p>		

For an *Out of State Educator with a valid license from another state and a passing score on an approved performance assessment with less than one year of teaching experience*, an Initial license is only provided if all the requirements for Delaware’s Initial License are met. Just the existence of a valid license (reciprocity) from another state does not allow for an Initial License to be given if the applicant has less than one year of teaching experience.