



**Renewal Requirements: Educators Employed in Local School Systems, Non-Public Special Education Facilities, and State Institutions**

If you are employed as a teacher, administrator, or specialist by a MD public school system, nonpublic special education facility, or a MD State Institution, please contact your employer to discuss your certification needs.

| Standard Professional Certificate I (SPC I)<br>5-Yr. validity   | Standard Professional Certificate II (SPC II)<br>5-Yr. validity  | Advanced Professional Certificate (APC)<br>5-Yr. validity  |
|---|--|--|
| SPC I > SPC II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete 6 semester hours of acceptable credit*</li> <li>• Complete 3 years of satisfactory experience</li> <li>• Complete a professional development plan</li> </ul> | SPC I/II > APC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conferred Master’s degree related to public school education (6 credits related to the educator’s discipline)<br/><b>OR</b></li> <li>• 36 post baccalaureate credits (minimum 21 graduate level credits, of which 6 are related to the educator’s discipline)<br/><b>OR</b></li> <li>• National Board Certification and 12 credits of graduate coursework related to the educator’s discipline<br/><b>OR</b></li> <li>• Professional Technical Education (PTE) teachers who do not possess a bachelor’s degree shall complete a planned program of 36 credits (a maximum of 12 CPDs for the trade related or reading coursework may be applied)<br/><b>AND</b></li> <li>• Complete 3 years of satisfactory experience<br/><b>AND</b></li> <li>• Complete a professional development plan</li> </ul> <p><i>A minimum of 6 credits presented must be earned within the 5 years preceding the date of issuance.</i></p> | APC Renewal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete 6 semester hours of acceptable credit*</li> <li>• Complete 3 years of satisfactory experience</li> <li>• Complete a professional development plan</li> </ul> |

**FAILURE TO MEET YOUR RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS MAY NEGATIVELY IMPACT YOUR EMPLOYMENT STATUS.**

**Do you have senior status?**

If you will complete or have completed at least 25 years of public or approved non-public professional school service, or if you are or will be at least 55 years of age any time within the validity dates of this certificate, you may qualify for senior status. Acceptance of senior status is determined by your employer and remains in effect only while you are employed by a local Maryland school system, nonpublic facility, or state institution that recognizes and accepts this allowance. Once you terminate your employment, the senior status no longer applies and you must complete the appropriate requirements.

**Reading/Literacy Requirements**

Certificate holders with certification in early childhood education, elementary education, and special education Birth-3 and 1-8 are required to complete 12 semester hours in reading, which shall include:

- Processes and acquisition of reading skills
- Methods of teaching reading
- Reading assessment
- Materials for teaching reading

Certificate holders with certification in a secondary content area, special education 6- Adult, PreK-12 disciplines, and library media specialist are required to complete 6 semester hours in reading/literacy, which shall include:

- Teaching Reading/Literacy in the Content Area Part I
- Teaching Reading/Literacy in the Content Area Part II

*Please reference the reading summary issued to you upon the issuance of your initial certificate for specific requirements pertaining to your certification.*

### **Blind and Visually Impaired Teachers**

- At the initial renewal, a teacher shall present a qualifying score on a [Department approved test](#) of Braille competency and 6 semester hours of acceptable credit
- For continued renewal, a teacher shall submit 6 semester hours of acceptable credit, which must include at least one credit, continuing professional development credit, or continuing education unit related to the maintenance of knowledge of Braille code, as part of or in addition to, the regular renewal requirements for educators.

### **Specialists, Administrators, and Supervisors**

If you have a specialist, administrator, or supervisor certificate, and do not have a (special education) ancillary credit on your certificate or do not hold a certification in Generic Special Education, you must complete 3 semester hours of special education as part of the regular renewal requirements for educators.

### **School Counselors (Lauryn’s Law)**

Upon renewal of a certificate issued on or after January 1, 2017 in the area of school counseling, an individual must present 6 acceptable credits\*, which shall include:

- One semester hour of coursework; or
- One CPD; or
- An equivalent number of CEUs that addresses the following:

- (a) The need for intervention or referral in response to indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress, including, but not limited to depression, trauma, violence, youth suicide, and substance abuse; and
- (b) The identification of professional resources and best practices for distributing resources to parents or guardians to help students in crisis.

Additional information regarding renewal requirements may be found on the Maryland State Department of Education Certification website at [www.mdcert.org](http://www.mdcert.org).

Renewal requirements are defined in the Code of Maryland Regulations 13A.12.01.11, which may be accessed at <http://www.dsd.state.md.us>.

## Renewal Requirements for Educators who are not Employed or Working in a Private School

| Professional Eligibility Certificate (PEC)<br>5-Yr.validity   | Advanced Professional Certificate (APC)<br>5-Yr. validity   | Advanced Professional Certificate (APC)<br>5-Yr. validity   |
|---|---|---|
| <p>PEC &gt; PEC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete 6 semester hours of acceptable credit*</li> </ul> <p><i>The PEC may be renewed indefinitely should the educator remain unemployed/working in a private school</i></p> | <p>PEC &gt; Initial APC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conferred Master’s degree related to public school education (6 credits related to the educator’s discipline)<br/><b>OR</b></li> <li>• 36 post baccalaureate credits (minimum 21 graduate level credits, of which 6 are related to the educator’s discipline)<br/><b>OR</b></li> <li>• National Board Certification and 12 credits of graduate coursework related to the educator’s discipline<br/><b>OR</b></li> <li>• Professional Technical Education (PTE) teachers who do not possess a bachelor’s degree shall complete a planned program of 36 credits (a maximum of 12 CPDs for the trade related or reading coursework may be applied)<br/><b>AND</b></li> <li>• Complete 3 years of satisfactory experience</li> </ul> <p><i>A minimum of 6 credits presented must be earned within the 5 years preceding the date of issuance</i></p> | <p>APC &gt; APC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete 6 semester hours of acceptable credit*</li> </ul> |

### Reading Requirements

Certificate holders with certification in early childhood education, elementary education, and special education Infant-3 and 1-8 are required to complete 12 semester hours in reading, which shall include:

- Processes and acquisition of reading skills
- Methods of teaching reading
- Reading assessment
- Materials for teaching reading

Certificate holders with certification in a secondary content area, special education 6- Adult, PreK-12 disciplines, and library media specialist are required to complete 6 semester hours in reading, which shall include:

- Teaching Reading in the Content Area Part I
- Teaching Reading in the Content Area Part II

Additional information regarding renewal requirements may be found on the Maryland State Department of Education Certification website at [www.mdcert.org](http://www.mdcert.org).

Renewal requirements are defined in the Code of Maryland Regulations 13A.12.01.11, which may be accessed at <http://www.dsd.state.md.us>.

*Please reference the reading summary issued to you upon the issuance of your initial certificate for specific requirements pertaining to your certification.*

### **Blind and Visually Impaired Teachers**

- At the initial renewal, a teacher shall present a qualifying score on a [Department approved test](#) of Braille competency and 6 semester hours of acceptable credit
- For continued renewal, a teacher shall submit 6 semester hours of acceptable credit, which must include at least one credit, continuing professional development credit, or continuing education unit related to the maintenance of knowledge of Braille code, as part of or in addition to, the regular renewal requirements for educators.

### **Administrators and Specialists**

If you have a specialist, administrator, or supervisor certificate, and do not have a (special education) ancillary credit on your certificate or do not hold a certification in Generic Special Education, you must complete 3 semester hours of special education as part of the regular renewal requirements for educators.

### **School Counselors**

Upon renewal of a certificate issued on or after January 1, 2017 in the area of school counseling, an individual must present 6 acceptable credits\*, which shall include:

- One semester hour of coursework; or
- One CPD; or
- An equivalent number of CEUs that addresses the following:

- (a) The need for intervention or referral in response to indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress, including, but not limited to depression, trauma, violence, youth suicide, and substance abuse; and
- (b) The identification of professional resources and best practices for distributing resources to parents or guardians to help students in crisis.

---

**\*Acceptable credit shall be approved by the local superintendent of schools if the educator is employed by the local school system or if the educator is not employed, the credit is:**

- **Earned or taught at a regionally accredited Institution of Higher Education or through Maryland approved Continuing Professional Development credits (CPDs). (These credits must be submitted on an official transcript or on a Maryland CPD form);**
- **Related to a school assignment;**
- **Earned within 5 years preceding the date on which the certificate is issued; and**
- **Earned in [reading course](#) work if not already completed (teaching areas and library media specialists only)**

Additional information regarding renewal requirements may be found on the Maryland State Department of Education Certification website at [www.mdcert.org](http://www.mdcert.org).  
Renewal requirements are defined in the Code of Maryland Regulations 13A.12.01.11, which may be accessed at <http://www.dsd.state.md.us>.