

About the Office of Educator Licensure

Over the past year, the Office of Educator Licensure has:

EVALUATED
over 73,000 applications

ISSUED
more than 24,000 licenses & endorsements

PROCESSED
almost 38,000 renewals for almost 26,000 educators

ANSWERED
over 45,000 calls to our Call Center

ELAR
Educator Licensure and Renewal

Learn More

Watch one of our videos about Licensure on our YouTube Channel at youtube.com/c/MassachusettsOfficeofEducatorLicensure

Additional information about Educator Licensure in Massachusetts can be found at www.doe.mass.edu/licensure.

You can also call our Customer Service Call Center at **781-338-6600** or visit our Licensure Welcome Center walk-up counter, located on the first floor of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA

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Educator Licensure in Massachusetts

Academic/PreK-12 Teaching Licenses



The Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (ESE) is pleased to provide the following licensure information to prospective and current educators in the Commonwealth. The ESE Office of Educator Licensure oversees and issues four major types of Academic/PreK-12 teaching licenses.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

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Temporary License

General Requirements. The Temporary license is appropriate for experienced educators from out-of-state who:

- Have been employed under a valid license or certificate comparable to a Massachusetts Initial license for at least three years, AND
- Have not passed all or have not failed any of the required MTEL tests.

Validity

- **One (1)** year of employment
- Cannot be extended or renewed

Provisional License

General Requirements. A Provisional License is appropriate for individuals who:

- Have a Bachelor's degree
- Passed all required MTEL tests
- Some licenses may have additional requirements, such as relevant subject matter knowledge – Competency Review.

Tip: The Provisional license could be an option for someone seeking a core academic teacher license that completed a prep program but does not hold the Sheltered English Immersion Endorsements (SEI).

Validity

- **Five (5)** years of employment (refer to Validity Guide) www.doe.mass.edu/licensure/guidelines-provisional-license-validity.docx
- Cannot be extended or renewed

Initial License

General Requirements. An Initial License is appropriate for individuals who:

- Have a Bachelor's degree
- Have passed all required MTEL tests
- Hold the SEI endorsement (core academic teacher, principal/assistant principal, or supervisor/director only)
- Have completed one of the following:
  - An approved educator preparation program in Massachusetts
  - Performance Review Program for Initial Licensure (PRPIL)

For out-of-state applicants:

- Hold a valid/comparable license from another state, **OR**
- Have completed an approved alternative educator preparation program and hold a valid comparable license, **OR**
- Have completed an educator preparation program comparable to the license sought, sponsored by a college or university outside of MA that has been approved/accredited by the state, CAEP, TEAC or NCATE.

Validity

- **Five (5)** years of employment
- May be extended once for an additional **Five (5)** years

Professional License

General Requirements. A Professional License is appropriate for individuals who:

- Possess an Initial license in the same field as the Professional license sought
- Have been employed under the Initial License for at least three (3) years and have completed an induction and mentoring program
- Completed of one of the following:
  - An approved program for the Professional License sought, **OR**
  - A program leading to eligibility for master teacher status (NBPTS), **OR**
  - Master's or higher degree or other advanced graduate program in an accredited college or university, at least 12 credits of graduate level courses in subject matter knowledge or pedagogy based on the subject matter knowledge of the Professional license sought
- For the teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing license (American Sign Language/Total Communication): Passing score on a test of sign language proficiency approved by the Department.

Validity

- **Five (5)** calendar years
- Renewable every **five (5)** calendar years thereafter
- Continuing Professional Development required to renew Professional Licenses every **five (5)** calendar years

Additional information about Educator Licensure in Massachusetts can be found at www.doe.mass.edu/licensure.