

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



Military Spouse Teacher Certification

statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil

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Issue

KEY MESSAGE:

State teacher certification is generally designed to credential a teacher to work within a school district over extended periods of time. Policies that allow a teacher certified in another state to become credentialed in a new state require extensive documentation and may require additional testing and course work. Military spouse teachers are expected to accomplish these credentialing requirements every two to three years due to military directed moves.



Criteria

State policies that meet our request:

- Provide maximum flexibility when accepting an existing standard certificate (and the prerequisites to have obtained that certificate) to obtain a standard certificate in that state. May include one or more of the following provisions:
 - Universal “recognition” of out-of-state licenses (AZ)
 - Waiving additional state-specific testing or coursework requirements (KS)
 - Treating licenses obtained through alternative licensure in another state as a license obtained in that state through alternative licensure (NV)
- Provide an opportunity to work in the state temporarily based on acceptance of an existing standard certificate in another state by:
 - Providing a provisional certificate lasting at least one year (CA, OK)
 - Establishing a special temporary certificate for military spouse teachers that lasts the duration of a military assignment (about three years) (IA, NC, CO, NE)
- Expedite application and adjudication processes by:
 - Allowing military spouse teachers time-saving options, such as submitting photocopies of state certificates and test scores, and allowing student copies of official transcripts be submitted in unopened mailers
 - Flagging applications from military spouse teachers and establish deadlines for completing their adjudication (MO, PA)



Best Practices – Expedited

Pennsylvania House Bill 2078 (2015-16)

Department of Education shall process an application for permanent college certification submitted by an individual who is a member of the United States Armed Forces, including a reserve component or National Guard or a veteran, or the spouse of the member of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of the veteran, within fourteen (14) days of the date the department received the completed application. For the purposes of this section, the term "veteran" shall mean an individual who has served in the United States Armed Forces, including a reserve component or National Guard, and who was discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable.

Missouri SB 656 (2020)

8. Within thirty days of receiving an application from a spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who has been transferred or is scheduled to be transferred to the state of Missouri, or who has been transferred or is scheduled to be transferred to an adjacent state and is or will be domiciled in the state of Missouri, or has moved to the state of Missouri on a permanent change-of-station basis and has successfully completed the background check described under subsection 5 of this section and section 168.133, the state board shall issue to such applicant a full certificate of license to teach, provided that the applicant has paid all necessary fees and has otherwise met all requirements to be issued such a certificate.



Best Practices – Temporary/Military Spouse Permit

Iowa IAC Chapter 13

13.17(3) Military exchange license.

b. Spouses of active duty military service members applying under 13.5(2). A three-year nonrenewable military exchange license may be issued to the applicant under the following conditions:

- (1) The applicant has completed a traditional teacher preparation program at a regionally accredited and state-approved two- or four-year college.
- (2) The applicant is the holder of a valid and current or an expired teaching license from another state.
- (3) The applicant provides verification of the applicant's connection to or the applicant's spouse's connection to the military by providing a copy of current military orders with either a marriage license or a copy of a military ID card for the applicant's spouse.
- (4) This license may be converted to a one-year regional exchange license upon application and payment of fees.

c. Veterans or their spouses applying under 13.5(2). A three-year military exchange license may be issued to an applicant who meets the requirements of 13.17(3)"b"(1) and (2). A veteran must provide a copy of the veteran's DD 214. A spouse must provide a copy of the veteran spouse's DD 214 and the couple's marriage license.

d. Spouses of active duty military service veterans, or veterans' spouses applying under 13.5(2). If the applicant has completed a nontraditional teacher preparation program but is not eligible for a teaching license, the applicant will be issued a substitute license, and the initial review for the portfolio review process will be completed by board staff. An applicant must provide verification of connection to the military outlined in 13.17(3)"b"(3)"c."



Best Practices – Flexibility

Kansas 48-3406. Expedited state licensure procedure if licensed in another state for military service members or military spouses.

(c) A military service member with an honorable discharge or nonresident military spouse shall receive a license under subsection (b) of this section:

(2) If the professional practice act does not have licensure by endorsement, reinstatement or reciprocity statutes, then,1 at the time of application, the military service member or nonresident military spouse: (E) Submits with the application a signed affidavit stating that the application information, including necessary prior employment history, is true and accurate.

Arizona House Bill 2534 (2018)

A.R.S 15-501.01 (D):

The rules for certification reciprocity shall include a requirement that the applicant possess a comparable valid certification from another state and be in good standing with that other state. An applicant who possesses a valid certification from another state and a fingerprint clearance card pursuant to section 15-534 and who is in good standing with that other state shall be issued a comparable standard certificate or a comparable certificate issued pursuant to section 15-132, 15-203 or 15-782.01, as applicable, without any other requirements from the state board of education or the department of education. A person who is issued a certificate pursuant to this subsection is not required to meet any requirement prescribed in section 15-533.



Best Practices – Alternative Route Portability

Nevada Senate Bill 100 (2019) Sec.6.NRS 391.032 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2. A person who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States or the spouse of such a member or veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has completed the equivalent of an alternative route to licensure program in another state may obtain a license as if such person has completed the alternative route to licensure program of this State.



2020 Issue Status

- New legislation passed/policy discovered this year: **5 (HI, MO, NM, OH, OK)**
- “Green” States (fully met – policy passed for all three sub-issues): **19**
- “Teal” States (partially met – policy passed for 1-2 sub-issues): **18**
- Break-down of enacted policies (by sub-issue and number of states)
 - Expedited: **26**
 - Temporary: **30**
 - Flexibility: **25**

The logo is circular with a blue border. Inside, there are three white stars at the top, a red silhouette of a family (two adults and a child) in the center, and three white wavy lines at the bottom. The text "Military Community" is written in yellow at the top, and "& Family Policy" is written in yellow at the bottom. The background of the slide features a stylized American flag with red and white stripes and a blue field with white stars.

Further Discussion

- What worked for your success in 2020?
- What roadblocks did you encounter?
- Flexibility and endorsement
- Temporary/provisional limitations
- Alternative route to licensure