



Academic Educator Licensure, 2020-2021

A [valid license or waiver](#) is required for employment as a teacher in a Massachusetts public school. The specific requirements for academic coursework, professional experience and MTEL requirements are different for each license field. Refer to the DESE [General Requirements](#) or the [Licensure Requirements Tool](#).

Updated September 14, 2020

COVID-19 Temporary Changes 2020-21 School Year Only

Emergency License

Valid only for the 2020-21 School Year. Available only for a first license in a category (Teacher, Specialist Teacher, Professional Support Personnel or Administrator) for Academic Licenses. Requires an application for the [Emergency License in ELAR](#).

Automatic License Extensions – Emergency Order

Any active educator license as of March 18, 2020, that expires during the state of emergency [will remain valid](#) until 90 days after the end of the state of emergency. No action is required by the educator or district.

THE FOLLOWING REGULATORY CHANGES ARE [REFERENCED BY DESE](#) HOWEVER REGULATORY CHANGES ARE NOT PUBLISHED AS OF 9/14/20.

Long Term Substitute – Emergency Amendment

603 CMR 7.02 Definitions *Not Yet Published*

Temporary Substitute Teacher An educator may be employed as a temporary substitute teacher in one position for up to the full 2020-21 school year, except in a role requiring a special education or ELS license.

Assignment Out of License Role– Emergency Amendment

603 CMR 7.15(9) General Provisions for Employment *Not Yet Published*

Legal Employment To be eligible for employment by a school district in any position covered by a license issued under 603 CMR 7.00, a person must hold a license by the Commissioner that is appropriate for the role. A person holding a license may be employed for a maximum of 20% of his or her time in a role or at a level for which he or she does not hold a license. During the 2020-2021 school year, a person holding a license may be employed for a maximum of 50% of his or her time in a role or at a level for which the individual does not hold a license, except in a role requiring a special education, a school nurse, or an ESL license.

Hardship Waiver

[District application in ELAR](#) request to employ an educator who does not hold the appropriate license for a role. [603 CMR 7.15 \(13\)](#) *Valid for one year only*

- Proof of job posting
- List of licensed applicants (if any)
- An explanation of why the district wants to hire unlicensed candidate
- Educator application in ELAR for the license
- For a second-year waiver, [demonstration of progress](#)

DESE has indicated that [internal postings](#) will be sufficient for certain waiver applications for the 2020-21 school year only.

General Academic License Requirements 603 CMR 7.00

Provisional License

Valid for [five total years](#) of employment

- [Transcript](#) summed to ELAR
- Passing score on [Communications and Literacy MTEL](#)
- Passing score [any required content MTELS](#)
- If necessary, [competency review](#) and/or [panel review](#) requirements.

Initial License

Valid for [five years of employment](#). May be [extended one time](#) for five years.

- Submit same requirements for Provisional license
The Provisional License is not a prerequisite.
- Completion of an [approved educator preparation](#) route
- [SEI Endorsement](#) (Core Academic Teachers only)

Professional License

Valid for [five calendar years](#) and [must be renewed with 150 PDPs](#)

- [Three years of employment](#) under same Initial license.
- Completion of [district induction program](#)
- Master's Degree with [12 credits in field of license](#) or National Board Certification ([603 CMR 7.04\(2\)\(c\)](#))