



Academic Educator Licensure, 2020-2022

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 differ for each license field. Refer to the DESE [General Requirements](#) or the [Licensure Requirements Tool](#). The provisions to allow Emergency licensure and assignment outside of license are expected to continue through the 2021-2022 school year.

Revised June 1, 2021

COVID-19 Temporary Changes Licensure and Employment

Emergency License

[Extended to June 30, 2022](#). Available only for a first license in a category (Teacher, Specialist Teacher, Professional Support Personnel or Administrator). Requires an application for the [Emergency License in ELAR](#).

Automatic License Extensions – Emergency Order

Any active educator license as of March 18, 2020, that expired during the state of emergency [will remain valid until July 31, 2021](#). For Professional licenses that expired between March 18, 2020 and July 31, 2021, accounts in ELAR will be updated with a new expiration date of July 31, 2021.

Long Term Substitute – Amendment

[603 CMR 7.02 Definitions](#)

Anticipated to be extended through 2021-2022

Temporary Substitute Teacher: An educator who is employed for fewer than 90 consecutive school days in the same role in place of an educator who is absent. Any educator who is employed for more than 90 consecutive school days in the same role must either be licensed for the role or working under a hardship waiver. For 2020-21, an educator who holds a bachelor's degree may be employed up to the full school year in the same role, except in a role requiring specific licenses.¹

Assignment Out of License Role – Amendment

[603 CMR 7.15\(9\) General Provisions for Employment](#)

Anticipated to be extended through 2021-2022

Legal Employment. 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 appropriate for the role. A person may be employed for a maximum of 20% of their time in a role where they do not hold a license.

During the 2020-2022 school years, a person may be employed for a maximum of 50% their time in a role where they do not hold a license, except in a role requiring certain licenses.²

General Academic License Requirements 603 CMR 7.00

Hardship Waiver

Valid for one year only.

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

- 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

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 MTELEs](#)
- 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 identical requirements as Provisional license
- Completion of an [approved educator preparation](#) route
- [SEI Endorsement](#) (Core Academic Teachers only)

Professional License

Valid for five calendar years.

- [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\(2\)\(c\)](#))

Professional Renewal

Renew every five calendar years.

- Document [150 Professional Development Points](#)
- [IPDP](#) or five years of Educator Evaluation Plans

¹Teacher of Moderate Disabilities, Teacher of Severe Disabilities, Teacher of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ASL/TC), Teacher of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (Oral/Aural), Teacher of Visually Impaired, Teacher of Speech, Language and Hearing Disorders, or English as a Second Language

²As above plus School Nurse license

Note: The information in this document is for reference purposes only. Please check the specific requirements for your license(s) at www.doe.mass.edu/licensure.