

CERTIFIED/HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS
Guidance for Districts

Certification:

All teachers. . . employed in a Wyoming school district must be licensed in accordance with Wyoming state law [§ 21-2-802 (a)(i)]. Initial licensure requires that one

- (1) complete an approved teacher preparation program and
- (2) submit an institutional recommendation for licensure.

Approved alternative routes are available for those entering education from a non-traditional vantage point.

Teachers must hold licensure in the specific content areas to which they are assigned; i.e. Elementary, Biology, English, Math, etc. The sciences require certification in each of the specific content areas whereas one certified in Math 6-12 may teach any of the math courses at those grade levels. Elementary certification applies to grades K-6; secondary certification applies to grades 6-12.

Highly Qualified:

A “highly qualified” teacher

- (1) holds at least a bachelor’s degree,
- (2) is fully licensed by the State, and
- (3) has demonstrated content knowledge in each of the subjects he/she teaches.

All teachers of the core academic subjects must meet the highly qualified teacher requirement. The core academic subjects are math, English/language arts, reading, science, civics and government, geography, history, economics, foreign language, special education, and the arts.

Teachers of vocational courses, health, and physical education are not subject to the highly qualified teacher requirement.

Elementary education teachers and Social Studies Comprehensive teachers must take the appropriate Praxis test to become fully certified and highly qualified in their content areas.

Teachers of all other HQT content areas are highly qualified by virtue of a major in the specific content area.

Special Education teachers who are (standard) certified as Exceptional Generalists may serve as inclusion and/or resource teachers for students in their grade level certification. Those teachers who need to be the teacher of

record for specific content areas must be “highly qualified” to teach each content area assigned. Acquisition of the “highly qualified” status requires that the certified Exceptional Generalist pass an appropriate grade level content test for each course assigned, or acquire an endorsement for the content area by completing the appropriate endorsement program.

An Elementary certified, highly qualified teacher may teach “reading” to students through the sixth grade. Teaching reading to students above the sixth grade requires a reading endorsement. One who is reading endorsed is highly qualified in reading at the endorsed grade levels.

National Board Certification does not necessarily equal highly qualified. Teachers who are not highly qualified in a content area, but are National Board Certified may submit a copy of their NBC program, work, and results of required tests for review. “Highly qualified” is evidence of content knowledge so NBC programs focused on content may work.

Preschools that are established by school districts are part of the public elementary education system and are required to have certified, highly qualified teachers as the teacher of record.

All paraprofessionals must be highly qualified. Districts are responsible for ensuring that all paraprofessionals are highly qualified, but it is occasionally monitored by Federal Programs personnel. Acquisition of highly qualified status requires an associate’s degree, the credit hours equivalent of an associate’s degree, or a passing score on a nationally recognized test for paraprofessionals.

All teachers and paraprofessionals paid with federal funds must be highly qualified. This includes teachers who are not the teacher of record.