



EMERGENCY TEACHER CERTIFICATION: A SURVEY OF SREB STATE POLICIES

Background

Eleven SREB states authorize state education agencies, state boards of education or local district superintendents to issue temporary certificates. These certificates allow school districts to fill vacant instructional positions. Most state policies require districts to demonstrate that they have performed due diligence in attempting to hire certified educators for open positions. This briefing summarizes these policies.

SREB State Policies

State	Citation	Validity	Summary
Alabama	AAC 290-3-2-.24	One Year Non-Renewable	The SEA may issue one-year, non-renewable emergency certificates to applicants nominated by the district superintendent or a school administrator. The applicant must hold at least a bachelor’s degree. The certificate is valid for only one teaching field.
Delaware	14 DAC 1506	One Year Renewable	The SEA may issue emergency certificates to educators who hold a valid state license, but are ineligible for certification in the area of need. The SEA may reissue the emergency certificate for a second year based on a satisfactory performance evaluation.
Kentucky	16 KAR 2:120	One Year Non-Renewable	The Education Professional Standards Board may issue emergency certificates, upon nomination by the hiring school district. In most cases, certificates are non-renewable. Applicants must hold at least a bachelor’s degree and meet GPA requirements. Districts must document efforts to hire certified personnel for vacant positions.
Louisiana	Bulletin 746	One Year Renewable	The SEA may issue two temporary permits. The Temporary Authority to Teach permit allows uncertified teachers to complete certification requirements. The Temporary Employment Permit allows uncertified teachers time to pass subject-area tests. The two permits are valid for one year and are renewable in most cases.
Maryland	COMAR 13A.12.01.08	Two Years Non-Renewable	The SEA may issue conditional teacher certificates, upon district request. Applicants must hold at least a bachelor’s degree. The certificate is valid for two years and is non-renewable.

SREB State Policies (continued)

State	Citation	Validity	Summary
North Carolina	TCP-A-001	One Year Non-Renewable	The SEA may issue emergency permits. Applicants must hold at least a bachelor's degree. The certificate is valid for one year and is non-renewable. Districts must demonstrate that no licensed professionals were available.
Oklahoma	§ 70-6-187	One Year Non-Renewable	State law authorizes the Oklahoma State Board of Education to approve emergency certificates. Districts must send official transcripts and verify that applicants have passed the subject-area exam or are registered to take it at the next available date.
South Carolina	§ 59-26-40	Unknown	State law references the authority of the State Board of Education to issue emergency certificates, but does not stipulate the validity period or any renewal requirements. However, State Board administrative rules do not reference emergency certificates.
Tennessee	TCA § 49-5-106	One Year Renewable	The Commissioner of Education may grant one-year temporary permits to applicants, upon recommendation of the district director of schools. The commissioner may renew permits if the district is unable to fill vacancies with qualified professionals.
Texas	Ed. Code § 21.055	Based on Superintendent Decision	Districts may issue a teaching permit to uncertified individuals. The district must send a statement of qualification to the Commissioner of Education. The commissioner should issue an opinion on the person's qualifications within 30 days. The permit remains valid until the district superintendent cancels it.
West Virginia	126 CSR 136	One Year Renewable	The SEA may issue teaching permits, upon recommendation by the district superintendent. The applicant must hold at least a bachelor's degree and meet minimum GPA requirements. The permit is renewable if the applicant completes coursework requirements and receives a continued recommendation from the superintendent.

For More Information

SREB is here to serve you! If you have any more questions related to teachers and principals, please contact the Educator Effectiveness team.

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