

Highly Qualified Questions and Answers

General Questions:

Do I have to be highly qualified in the core academic subjects I teach?

Yes.

When do I have to be highly qualified?

All teachers must be highly qualified by June 30, 2007 according to the federal government. After that date, districts that have teachers that do not meet the highly qualified requirements face varying levels of sanctions that could include loss of federal Title I and other Title funds.

What does highly qualified mean?

All teachers must have at least a baccalaureate degree, full state certification, and have demonstrated subject matter competency in **each** of the core academic subjects in which they teach.

What are the core academic subjects?

English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science (biology, chemistry, earth science, general science, physical science, and physics), foreign languages, civics and government, economics, music, theater, art, social studies, history, and geography are designated as core academic subjects.

What is full state certification?

Teachers holding Initial, Professional, or Master Certificates hold full state certification.

How do I become highly qualified?

Elementary teachers:

- **New** elementary teachers must take either of the two Praxis II tests identified for elementary teachers.
- **Experienced** elementary teachers may take one of the two Praxis II tests identified for elementary teachers, **or** may build a HOUSSE if they were teaching prior to the 2002-2003 school year.

Middle and Secondary teachers:

- **New** middle or secondary teachers may hold a posted major in their content area, the equivalent to a major (30 semester hours), an advanced degree in the content area, or advanced certification in the content area **or** may take the Praxis II exam for their content area.
- **Experienced** middle or secondary teachers may hold a posted major in their content area, the equivalent to a major (30 semester hours), an advanced degree in the content area, or advanced certification in the

content area, may take the Praxis II exam for their content area or may build a HOUSSE if they were teaching prior to the 2002-2003 school year.

ELL teachers who provide instruction in core academic subjects must meet the highly qualified requirements. The requirements are the same as those for elementary and secondary teachers previously given.

Elementary school art or music teachers who hold a major in the content area, the equivalent to a major (30 semester hours), an advanced degree in the content area, or advanced certification in the content area are already highly qualified. If they are not already highly qualified, they may take the Praxis II in music or art

Special Education teachers:

- **Elementary** special education teachers must hold an endorsement in special education and may take one of the Praxis II tests that have been designated for elementary teachers or may build an elementary HOUSSE if they were teaching prior to the 2002-2003 school year.
- **Middle and Secondary** teachers who provide instruction in core academic subjects, must meet the highly qualified requirements. They must hold an endorsement in special education. They may have a posted major or the equivalent in the core content area(s) they teach, may take the Praxis II in the core academic subject(s) they teach or build a HOUSSE for the subject(s).
 - **Special notes:**
 - Special education teachers who only provide consultative service to highly qualified teachers, do not have to meet the highly qualified requirements.
 - Secondary special education teachers may use the multiple subjects HOUSSE to become highly qualified.

I teach in a charter/correspondence school in Alaska. Do I need to be highly qualified?

Yes.

Does an endorsement on my teaching certificate make me highly qualified?

If the endorsement is based on a major, masters, or doctorate degree in the core-content area, you are highly qualified in that content area.

Does a minor in a core content area make me highly qualified?

No.

Does a Masters of Education (M.ED or MAT) mean I am highly qualified?

No. The Masters of Education or the Masters of Arts in Teaching do not constitute an advanced degree in a **content** area.

Does National Board Certification make me highly qualified?

- If you teach elementary school and hold National Board Certification as an Early Childhood Generalist, or as a Middle Childhood Generalist, you earn 100 points on the HOUSSE and are highly qualified for the grade levels of your National Board Certification.
- If you teach all middle school core academic subjects in a self-contained classroom in grades 6, 7, or 8 and hold National Board Certification as an Early Adolescent Generalist, you are highly qualified.
- If you teach a middle school or high school core academic subject and hold National Board Certification in that core academic subject, you are highly qualified.

I teach four subjects in a rural secondary or K-12 school. What do I do?

You must meet the highly qualified requirements in all the core academic subjects you teach as soon as possible.

I teach vocational education. Do I need to be highly qualified?

If students earn credit in a core academic subject for work in a vocational course, the teacher must be highly qualified.

I have been designated as highly qualified by another state. What do I do for Alaska?

If you have been designated as highly qualified in a **core academic content area**, you need to show your district the information from the other state. Please follow your district's procedures.

I am highly qualified in my district but I want to move to another district next year. Will I still be highly qualified?

Once you obtain the highly qualified designation in a core academic subject in Alaska, you will be considered highly qualified for that subject. If you move to a new district and a new teaching assignment, you would need to obtain the designation for the new subject area.