



Best Practices: Military Spouse Teacher Certification

Key Message

Teacher certification is designed to credential an educator for an extended period. But policies can make transfers between states hard for military spouses, who must recertify every two to three years as they move.

Principles:

States have enacted changes to their licensing statutes that have mitigated the challenges for military spouses who are teachers by:



(Topic 1) Providing maximum flexibility when accepting an existing standard certificate (and the prerequisites to have obtained that certificate) to obtain a standard certificate in the new state. This may include treating licenses obtained through alternative routes in other states the same as licenses obtained through alternative routes in that state.



(Topic 2) Providing a provisional or temporary certificate or establishing a special temporary certificate for military spouse teachers that lasts the duration of a military assignment (about three years), based on acceptance of an existing standard certificate and the prerequisite requirements fulfilled to have obtained that certificate.



(Topic 3) Expediting application and adjudication processes by:

- Allowing military spouse teachers timesaving options such as submitting photocopies of state certificates and test scores, allowing student copies of official transcripts to be submitted in unopened mailers and releasing the provisional license based on an affidavit stating the application is true and the verifying documents will be submitted by a specific date
- Expediting the adjudication of applications by flagging those from military spouse teachers and establishing deadlines for completing their adjudication



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Examples of Best Practices:

The examples shown below have been identified by matching icons of arrows to reflect (Topic 1) content, a stopwatch to reflect (Topic 2) content and a lightning bolt to reflect (Topic 3) content above:

- Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 13

13.17(3) Military exchange license.

a. Definitions

“Military service” means honorably serving on federal active duty, state active duty or National Guard duty, as defined in Iowa Code Section 29A.1; in the military services of other states, as provided in 10 U.S.C. Section 101(c); or in the organized reserves of the United States, as provided in 10 U.S.C. Section 10101.



“Veteran” means an individual who meets the definition of “veteran” in Iowa Code Section 35.1(2).b. Spouses of active-duty military service members applying under 13.5(2). A three-year nonrenewable military exchange license may be issued to the applicant under the following conditions:

1. The applicant has completed a traditional teacher preparation program at a regionally accredited and state-approved two- or four-year college.
2. The applicant is the holder of a valid and current or an expired teaching license from another state.
3. The applicant provides verification of the applicant's connection to or the applicant's spouse's connection to the military by providing a copy of current military orders with either a marriage license or a copy of a military identification card for the applicant's spouse.



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IAC Chapter 13 (continued)

13.17(3) Military exchange license.

4. This license may be converted to a one-year regional exchange license upon application and payment of fees.
- c. Veterans or their spouses applying under 13.5(2). A three-year military exchange license may be issued to an applicant who meets the requirements of 13.17(3) “b” (1) and (2). A veteran must provide a copy of the veteran’s DD 214. A spouse must provide a copy of the veteran spouse's DD 214 and the couple's marriage license.
- d. Spouses of active-duty military service veterans, or veterans' spouses applying under 13.5(2). If the applicant has completed a nontraditional teacher preparation program but is not eligible for a teaching license, the applicant will be issued a substitute license, and the initial review for the portfolio review process will be completed by board staff. An applicant must provide verification of connection to the military outlined in 13.17(3) “b” (3) or 13.17(3) “c.”



- Missouri Senate Bill 656 (2020).



8. Within 30 days of receiving an application from a spouse of an active-duty member of the armed forces of the United States who has been transferred or is scheduled to be transferred to the state of Missouri, or who has been transferred or is scheduled to be transferred to an adjacent state and is or will be domiciled in the state of Missouri, or has moved to the state of Missouri on a permanent change-of-station basis and has successfully completed the background check described under Subsection 5 of this section and section 168.133, the state board shall issue to such an applicant a full certificate of license to teach, provided that the applicant has paid all necessary fees and has otherwise met all requirements to be issued such a certificate.

- Pennsylvania House Bill 2078 (2015-16).



The Department of Education shall process an application for permanent college certification submitted by an individual who is a member of the U.S. armed forces, including a Reserve Component or National Guard or a veteran, or the spouse of the member of the United States armed forces or the spouse of the veteran, within 14 days of the date the department received the completed application.



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- Arizona House Bill 2534 (2018).

Arizona Revised Statutes 15-501.01 (D):

The rules for certification reciprocity shall include a requirement that the applicant possess a comparable valid certification from another state and be in good standing with that other state.



An applicant who possesses a valid certification from another state and a fingerprint clearance card pursuant to Section 15-534 and who is in good standing with that other state, shall be issued a comparable standard certificate or a comparable certificate issued pursuant to Section 15-132, 15-203 or 15-782.01, as applicable, without any other requirements from the State Board of Education or the Department of Education.

- Oklahoma Senate Bill 1125 (2020).

Section 6-190 G.



1. The board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person who holds a valid out-of-state certificate. The certificate to teach shall only be for those subject areas and grade levels most closely aligned to the subject areas and grade levels recognized on the out-of-state certificate.
2. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this subsection shall not be required to take any competency examinations in those subject areas and grade levels most closely aligned to the subject areas and grade levels recognized on the out-of-state certificate.
3. A person who meets the requirements of this subsection shall have on file with the board a current Oklahoma criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.



Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record check, the board may issue a temporary certificate, which shall be effective until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record check. The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the criminal history record check.



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- **Nevada Senate Bill 100 (2019).**

Section 6.NRS 391.032 is hereby amended to read as follows:



1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 391.027, the commission shall:

(a) Adopt regulations that provide for the issuance of provisional licenses to teachers and other educational personnel before completion of all courses of study or other requirements for a license in this state.



2. A person who is a member of the armed forces of the United States, a veteran of the armed forces of the United States or the spouse of such a member or veteran of the armed forces of the United States, and who has completed the equivalent of an alternative route to licensure program in another state, may obtain a license as if such person has completed the alternative route to licensure program of this state.



3. A person who is issued a provisional license must complete all courses of study and other requirements for a license in this state, which is not provisional, within three years after the date on which a provisional license is issued.

- **Kansas 48-3406.**

(c) A military service member with an honorable discharge or nonresident military spouse shall receive a license under subsection (b) of this section:

(2)¹ At the time of application, the military service member or nonresident military spouse:



(E) Submits with the application a signed affidavit stating that the application information, including necessary prior employment history, is true and accurate. Upon receiving such an affidavit, the licensing body shall issue the license to the military service member or nonresident military spouse on a probationary basis, but may revoke the license at any time if the information provided in the application is found to be false.



¹ The existing Kansas law includes, “If the professional practice act does not have licensure by endorsement, rein-statement or reciprocity statutes, then”; however, the department believes these limitations may not be necessary and may hamper the language as a best practice.