

Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

Fact Sheet #122

The TESOL endorsement is required for anyone in the employ of a board of education serving as a teacher of English to speakers of other languages. Certification may be granted on the basis of: (1) a planned teacher preparation program in TESOL; or (2) fulfillment of the course requirements necessary for cross endorsement; or (3) by prior successful TESOL experience for a Connecticut board of education under a Connecticut certificate.

All applicants who do not hold a valid Connecticut educator certificate must meet the following requirements:

Praxis I Pre-Professional Skills Tests (PPST): paper-based
or

Praxis I Pre-Professional Skills Tests (PPST): computerized
or

Waiver +

AND

A course of study in special education comprised of not fewer than 36 clock hours, which shall include study in understanding the growth and development of exceptional children, including handicapped and gifted and talented children and children who may require special education, and methods for identifying, planning for and working effectively with special-needs children in the regular classroom.

Eligibility for TESOL Certification Based on Program Preparation

Holds a bachelor's degree from an approved institution. As part of the bachelor's degree, has completed a minimum of 39 semester hours of credit in general education as outlined in regulations and has completed either:

1. A major in TESOL awarded by an approved institution

OR

2. A total of 39 semester hours to include a minimum of 30 semester hours of credit in TESOL and a minimum of nine semester hours of credit in the areas of bilingualism, a foreign language, or literacy development. The 30 semester hours of credit in TESOL shall be distributed among the following:
 - A. English Language,
 - B. Language Theory,
 - C. Culture and Intergroup Relations, and
 - D. Linguistic and Academic Assessment of Limited English Proficient Students.

AND

Has completed a minimum of 30 semester hours of credit in professional education in a planned program of study to be distributed among each of the following:

- * Foundations of Education;
- * Educational Psychology;
- * A minimum of six semester hours of credit in methods of teaching English to speakers of other languages and curriculum related to TESOL;
- * Student teaching of between six and 12 semester hours of credit at the elementary and secondary level for a total minimum of ten weeks.

An institutional recommendation will be required for all individuals applying for TESOL certification on the basis of an approved teacher preparation program.

Eligibility for TESOL Certification Through Cross Endorsement

Teachers holding a valid Connecticut teaching certificate within the areas or fields of early childhood, elementary, middle grades, secondary academic subjects, or special education may add the TESOL endorsement to their current certification. Regulations require the completion of 30 semester hours of credit in TESOL with at least three semester hours of credit in each of the areas listed below:

- * English Syntax, English Composition,
- * Language Theory,
- * Culture and Intergroup Relations,
- * Linguistic and Academic Assessment of Limited English Proficient Students, and
- * Curriculum and Methods of Teaching English as a Second Language.

Other acceptable courses can be completed in British or American Literature, or English Language.

Eligibility For TESOL Certification Based On Prior Experience

Applicants who hold a Connecticut elementary or secondary certificate in English or foreign language and taught TESOL for a Connecticut board of education prior to July 1, 1993, may be eligible for a TESOL endorsement upon application and completion of at least three semester hours of credit in each of the following:

- * Methods of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- * Culture and Intergroup Relations; OR
Linguistics and Academic Assessment of Limited-English Proficient Students

You may want to include course descriptions, if necessary, to assist in evaluating your credentials. If you wish to have courses pre-approved or to inquire as to the acceptability of a particular course, put your request in writing. Please include the course title and a course description for our review.

+ Praxis I Pre-Professional Skills Tests (PPST): Waiver Options

What Is A Waiver And How Can I Apply For One?

A waiver is an alternative to taking and passing the Essential Skills Tests. Waiver application booklets are available at the education departments of Connecticut colleges and universities, or you may call (860) 713-6969 or send a fax (860) 713-7017 to request one.

A waiver may be granted by furnishing official* proof of having met one of the following:

SAT Waiver: A total** score of 1,000 on the SAT, with neither the mathematics nor the verbal subtest scores below 400 points from any test administration on or prior to March 31, 1995, or a combined score of 1,100 or more with no less than 450 on either the verbal or mathematics subtests from test administrations on or after April 1, 1995.

OR

ACT Waiver: No less than 22 on the English subtest and no less than 19 on the mathematics subtest on the American College Testing (ACT) program assessment from test administrations on or after October 1989, or the equivalent ACT scores of no less than 20 on the English and 17 on the mathematics, from test administrations prior to October 1989.

OR

PAA Waiver: A total score on the Prueba de Aptitud Academica (PAA) equivalent*** to a combined score of 1,000 on the SAT with neither the mathematics nor the verbal subtest score below the equivalent of 400 points. In addition, a minimum score of 510 on the English as a Second Language Achievement Test (ESLAT) or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

*Official SAT, ACT and PAA scores are those scores sent directly to ETS from the respective testing company. Test scores forwarded to the CSDE by candidates cannot be accepted. Note that ETS is acting on behalf of the CSDE to process waiver applications.

**If you have taken the SAT on more than one occasion, your highest verbal score and your highest mathematics score will be combined.

***Equivalent scores are based on the equivalency table developed by William C. Angoff and Linda L. Cook reported in Angoff, W.C. and Cook, L.L. "Equating the Scales of the Spanish-Language Prueba de Aptitude Academica and the English-Language Scholastic Aptitude Test of the College Entrance Examination Board." Princeton, NJ: Educational Testing Service, 1988.

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The information contained on this fact sheet is subject to change without notice.