

## **CHAPTER 15.1-18 TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS**

**15.1-18-01. Early childhood education teaching license.** The education standards and practices board shall issue an optional early childhood education teaching license or endorsement to an applicant who meets the requirements set by the board. The optional early childhood education teaching license may be used in nonparental settings such as early childhood programs, preschool programs, and head start programs.

**15.1-18-02. Prekindergarten and kindergarten teacher qualifications - Exceptions.** In order to teach prekindergarten and kindergarten, an individual must be:

1. Licensed to teach by the education standards and practices board or approved to teach by the education standards and practices board; and
2.
  - a. Have a major in elementary education and a kindergarten endorsement;
  - b. Have a major equivalency in elementary education and a kindergarten endorsement;
  - c. Have a major in elementary education and an early childhood education endorsement;
  - d. Have a major equivalency in elementary education and an early childhood education endorsement;
  - e. Have a major in early childhood education; or
  - f. Have a major equivalency in early childhood education.

**15.1-18-03. Grades nine through twelve - Teacher qualifications - Exceptions.** Repealed by S.L. 2003, ch. 157, § 11.

**15.1-18-04. Student teacher - Eminence-credentialed teacher - Legal authority and status.**

1. An individual assigned as a student teacher or employed as an eminence-credentialed teacher has the same legal authority and status as a licensed teacher employed by the school district. The authority extends to all aspects of student management and discipline, the handling of confidential student records, and to all legal authority granted to a licensed teacher in the state.
2. An individual assigned as a student teacher or employed as an eminence-credentialed teacher must be deemed a licensed teacher employed by the district with respect to acts performed by the individual at the direction of or with the consent of the district employees under whose supervision and control the individual performs duties, whether or not the duties are performed entirely in the presence of district employees assigned to supervise the individual.
3. An individual assigned as a student teacher or employed as an eminence-credentialed teacher must be deemed an employee of the school district for purposes of liability insurance coverage under sections 32-12.1-05 and 39-01-08.
4. For purposes of this chapter, "eminence-credentialed teacher" means an individual who provides teaching services in accordance with subsection 21 of section 15.1-09-33.

**15.1-18-05. Special education strategist credential.** In addition to any other credential, the superintendent of public instruction shall implement a special education strategist credential, effective August 1, 2001. Any individual who obtains a special education strategist credential and meets all other teacher licensure requirements imposed by statute may provide special education services in the areas of mental retardation, emotional disturbance, and specific learning disabilities.

**15.1-18-06. Provisional special education strategist credential.** Beginning August 1, 2001, upon application the superintendent of public instruction shall issue a provisional special education strategist credential to any individual who is licensed to teach by the education standards and practices board or approved to teach by the education standards and practices board and who holds a credential applicable to the areas of mental retardation, emotional disturbance, or specific learning disabilities. The provisional credential must be made available to the individual for the lesser of three years or the period of time required by the individual to complete the requirements for a special education strategist credential.

**15.1-18-07. Elementary school teacher qualifications.**

1. In order to teach any grade in an elementary school that offers grades one through six, or in order to teach any grade in an elementary school that offers grades one through eight, an individual must be:
  - a. Licensed to teach by the education standards and practices board or approved to teach by the education standards and practices board; and
  - b. (1) Have a major in elementary education; or  
(2) Have a major equivalency in elementary education.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1, an individual may teach any grade from one through three in an elementary school provided the individual is:
  - a. Licensed to teach by the education standards and practices board or approved to teach by the education standards and practices board; and
  - b. (1) Has a major in early childhood education; or  
(2) Has a major equivalency in early childhood education.

**15.1-18-08. Middle school teacher qualifications.**

1. In order to teach any grade from five through eight in a middle school, an individual must be:
  - a. Licensed to teach by the education standards and practices board or approved to teach by the education standards and practices board; and
  - b. (1) Have a major in middle level education, with content in the areas taught by the individual and defined by the education standards and practices board as core academic areas;  
(2) Have a major equivalency in middle level education, with content in the areas taught by the individual and defined by the education standards and practices board as core academic areas; or  
(3) Have a major, a major equivalency, a minor, or a minor equivalency in each area taught by the individual and not defined by the education standards and practices board as a core academic area.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1, an individual may teach grade five or six in a middle school, provided the individual is:
  - a. Licensed to teach by the education standards and practices board or approved to teach by the education standards and practices board; and
  - b. (1) Has a major in elementary education; or  
(2) Has a major equivalency in elementary education.

**15.1-18-09. High school qualifications.** In order to teach grades seven through twelve, an individual must be:

1. Licensed to teach by the education standards and practices board or approved to teach by the education standards and practices board; and
2.
  - a. Have a major in the areas taught by the individual and defined by the education standards and practices board as core academic areas;
  - b. Have a major equivalency in the areas taught by the individual and defined by the education standards and practices board as core academic areas; or
  - c. Have a major, a major equivalency, a minor, or a minor equivalency in each area taught by the individual and not defined by the education standards and practices board as a core academic area.

**15.1-18-10. Specialty areas - Teacher qualification.** Notwithstanding the requirements of this chapter:

1. An individual may teach art, business education, computer education, a foreign language, music, physical education, special education, and technology education at any grade level from kindergarten through grade eight, provided the individual:
  - a. Is licensed to teach by the education standards and practices board;
  - b. Is approved to teach in that area by the education standards and practices board; and
  - c. Meets all requirements set forth in rule by the superintendent of public instruction.
2. An individual may teach Native American languages provided the individual is an eminence-credentialed teacher.
3. An individual may teach in the areas of trade, industry, technical occupations, or health occupations, provided the individual has been issued a license to teach in such areas by the education standards and practices board.

**15.1-18-11. Rural school districts - Federal flexibility.** The education standards and practices board may extend the effective dates for any provision in this chapter if the United States secretary of education by rule, policy, or guidance authorizes such extension.