Step: 1 Complete NIES online application a course - by - course, and submit payment.
Overview Step-by-Step Overview for Internationally Trained K-12 Teachers (k12) to Obtain an Idaho Teaching Certification Relicense in Idaho

Note: For most foreign trained professionals who want to become a k-12 teacher in Idaho there are two distinct non-traditional programs that the Idaho State Department of Education accepts, ABCTE and Teach For America (TFA).

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**Option 1**

ABCTE is designed as a pathway to enter the teaching profession or to add additional certificates or endorsements to an existing Idaho credential. The candidate MUST hold a Bachelor’s degree prior to enrolling in ABCTE.

**Step 1**
Apply to WES for credential evaluation and receive a course-by-course evaluation of your foreign credentials.

**Step 2**
Complete the WES Application and get a Reference Number.

**Step 3**
Communicate with University Language Services to have your translated copies sent to WES.

**Step 4**
Meet the requirement and apply to the ABCTE program and select Idaho as your State.

**Step 5**
Choose your subject of teaching and choose your program plan - Plus or Premium offered by ABCTE and submit the payment.

**Step 6**
Enroll into the program and take the courses and the training required.

**Step 7**
Pass the Professional Teaching Knowledge (PTK) exam and Subject Area exam. If you fail the exam, you have 3 additional times to take the exam for a fee of $195.

**Step 8**
Receive an ABCTE certification, also known as the ABCTE Passport to Teaching payment.

**Step 9**
The candidate submits an application for an Idaho three (3)-year interim certificate/credential payment.

**Step 10**
Finish the mentoring program and apply for Idaho Teaching Certificate the clear five (5)-year, certificate/credential.

**Option 2**

TFA is designed as a pathway to enter the teaching profession. TFA-Idaho Corps members are regionally prepared to teach in Idaho and commit to TFA to teach for two years. The candidate MUST hold a Bachelor’s degree to be eligible for TFA.

**Step 1**
Complete WES Online Application Course-by-Course evaluation.

**Step 2**
Request your credentials evaluated to be sent to TFA and provide translation to English for all your transcripts.

**Step 3**
Translate all the documents thru University Language Services and request for all required translated documents be sent to WES.

**Step 4**
Apply to the Teach For America program and choose the program you want to teach and the location.

**Step 5**
Meet the requirements for Enrolling into Teach For America and follow the process admissions process.

**Step 6**
Complete the online activity within the 3 day limit to be ready for the Final interview on the Applicant Center, and receive your final admissions into the program.

**Step 7**
When you get accepted to TFA attend 2 month summer training session.

**Step 8**
Take and pass the PRAXIS Subject Assessment Examination. If you fail retake the Praxis test once every 21 days. GF>> is there a limit to the number of times you can take the test?

**Step 9**
For Idaho after finishing the TFA program, receive your certification of recommendation and apply for Idaho three (3)-year interim certificate/credential.

**Step 10**
Find a job within one year for issuance of the Interim Certificate, and complete 2 year required mentoring program and 3 projects, and attend monthly professional development workshops thru your service.

**Step 11**
Provide Institutional Recommendation from TFA, and apply for the 5 year renewable teaching certificate/credential subsequent.
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IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
For most foreign trained professionals who want to become a k-12 teacher in Idaho there are two distinct non-traditional programs that the Idaho State Department of Education accepts, ABCTE and Teach For America. Individuals who complete either of these programs will be allowed to apply for an Interim Teaching Certificate, as well as a Five (5) Year Teaching Certificate. To understand what both of these programs entail, please keep reading.

American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) is the only computer-based alternate route to teacher certification. ABCTE is designed as an avenue to enter the teaching profession or to add additional certificates or endorsements to an existing Idaho credential. The candidate MUST hold a Bachelor’s degree prior to enrolling in ABCTE.

ABCTE offers programs in a limited number of content areas. ABCTE cannot be used for certificate or endorsement for a content area that they do not offer a program for.

For more information about the ABCTE Program, please click here. If you want to earn a teaching certificate through ABCTE, please click here.

Teach For America (TFA) is designed as an avenue to enter the teaching profession. TFA-Idaho Corps members are regionally prepared to teach in Idaho and commit to TFA to teach for two years. The candidate MUST hold a Bachelor’s degree to be eligible for TFA.

TEACHING WITH A MASTER’S DEGREE
K-12 Teaching Options: In general, individuals with master’s degrees need to follow the same directions as anyone who has not completed a state-approved K-12 teacher certification program. However, a master’s degree in a specific subject area will usually waive Praxis testing. No degree will waive the requirement of completion of either a state-approved teacher certification program through a college/university or completion of a non-traditional program such as ABCTE or Teach For America.
Teachers who completed a teacher certification program need to follow the directions from our website: http://www.sde.idaho.gov/cert-psc/cert/duplicate-cert.html

**University Teaching Options:** If an individual is teaching a subject at an Idaho university and holds a master’s degree or higher in that subject, they may apply for a Postsecondary Specialist Certificate (see: http://www.sde.idaho.gov/cert-psc/cert/apply/postsecondary.html). However, please note that for the Postsecondary Certificate to remain valid, the applicant must continue teaching in the postsecondary institution in Idaho (college or university). This certificate is intended for college/university professors who teach cross-credited classes at their college/university to high school students, and not for teachers moving from college/university teaching to K-12 teaching.
1. HOW THE PROFESSION IS ORGANIZED IN IDAHO

THE IDAHO EDUCATION SYSTEM

The Idaho State Department of Education provides Teaching certificates to individuals who successfully complete schooling at an accredited university, looking for reciprocity from teaching in another state, or having completed an alternative teaching certification program like ABCTE. Once you obtain a 5-year, renewable Idaho teaching certificate, continuing education requirement is 6 credits earned during the 5-year validity period.

* Your Idaho teaching license will not work in other states: you have to reapply for certification in each state you move to.

TYPES OF IDAHO TEACHING CERTIFICATES

The different certifications that are offered in Idaho are:
1. Biology (6-12)
2. Chemistry (6-12)
3. Elementary Education (K-12)
4. English (6-12)
5. General Science (6-12)
6. US and World History (6-12)
7. Mathematics (6-12)
8. Physics (6-12)
9. Special Education (K-12)

It costs $75 to apply for initial and standard teaching certificates.

MARKET FOR TEACHERS IN IDAHO

There is a high demand for teachers that concentrate on teaching in science, math, special education, and bilingual classrooms. The average salary for teachers in Idaho varies; click here to find out more.
Private schools or public charters are other employment areas that are useful to look at. These schools do not always require the same standards as the Idaho State Department of Education to teach. Many of these schools however have low pay and benefits compared to public schools.

2. TIME AND COSTS

The time and cost it takes to receive your Idaho teaching certificate depends on many factors, including:

- What agency you choose to evaluate your credentials, we recommend World Education Service (WES).
- The time it takes to have your degree issuing institute send your official records to WES.
- Also, a detailed and official description of classes you took is helpful.
- The cost and speed of services in the state of Idaho

Below, we provide a hypothetical scenario to outline the steps, costs, and time associated with the entire process that an individual will have to go through to become a teacher in Idaho. Please note, this is a general example out of many possibilities. Your experience will vary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>More Efficient Scenario</th>
<th>Approximate Time and Cost</th>
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</table>
| 1. **Degree evaluation by a credential organization** | - Your documents arrive and need translated  
- The credentialing organization completes your evaluation and sends it to ABCTE.  
- This process can take 1 to 6 months depending on how fast the issuing institution can send your official records.  
- + $300 | |
| 2. **Completing the ABCTE program** | - Enrolling into the program, completing the work, passing the PTK Exam and Subject Area exam.  
- 1 – 1.5 years + $1,850-2,850 depending on the plan you wish to enroll in without retaking exams. Retakes for PTK and Subject Area exams are $195. | |
### Step 3.

<table>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Approximate Time and Cost</strong></td>
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</table>
| 3. Idaho State Teaching Requirements | - Apply for Interim Certificate: $100  
- Complete fingerprint card: $34.75  
- Complete teaching and 2-year mentorship requirements  
- 3 years + During this time you will be able to make money. |
| 4. Apply for Idaho Teaching Certificate | - Apply for five (5) year certification: $75  
- 2 weeks to 10 weeks |
|       | **More Efficient Total** |
|       | *About 4 years + average $2,510* |

### 3. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSING

**OVERVIEW**

There are three basic steps foreign-educated teachers must take in order to become certified in the state of Idaho:

1. **World Education Services Credential Evaluation**
2. **Enroll in the ABCTE Program**
3. **Idaho Teaching Requirements for ABCTE**

**IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION:**

For ABCTE you will be required to receive a credential evaluation and have the report sent to ABCTE. We recommend having your credentials evaluated by World Education Services. However, there are a few other agencies that ABCTE accepts for credential evaluation. These include:

1. American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)
2. Association of International Credential Evaluators (AICE)
3. National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES)

Below, we will show an example of the process it would take to go through World Education Services.

I. WORLD EDUCATION SERVICES’ CREDENTIAL EVALUATION

The following information has been provided by the Word Education Services (WES). For more comprehensive information on WES’s Credential Evaluation Services, please visit:

http://www.wes.org/jobSeekers/index.asp

* You will be required to receive a course-by-course evaluation of your foreign credentials.

A. Complete WES Online Application and Submit Payment

Application and Fee

The following is a step-by-step process for applying to WES for a credential evaluation:

Step 1: Go to http://www.wes.org/application/apply_now.asp and under “Step 1: Review the Links Below” choose the country where you received your education from. It will show you a list of documents that you will be required to have sent to WES for an evaluation.

Step 2: Next, click on the Apply Now for use in the U.S. Once you do this, you will need to create an account with accurate information about you and your credentials.

Step 3: Once you have filled out all of your information you will be asked for which services you would like to choose. It is recommended that you choose the WES ICAP Course-by-Course evaluation. This costs $205.

Step 4: Next, add the recipient that will be receiving your credential evaluation, which will be ABCTE:

Please, request that your university send your transcripts to the following address:
Upon receipt of your transcripts, you will receive an email from the ABCTE Records department stating that this requirement has been met.

**Step 5:** Select how you would like your evaluation sent, Standard, Overnight, 2\(^{\text{nd}}\) Day Air, 3-5 Days… The price range can vary between $7-30.

**Step 6:** Once you have completed your online application, you will receive a reference number that will need to be included in your documents sent to WES by your documents’ issuing institution. **MAKE SURE** that your issuing institution sends your documents correctly. Click [here](#) to see an example. Follow this link to access the “Academic Records Request Form”.

**Step 7:** Make sure that you follow the document submission checklist: [http://www.wes.org/apply/popups.asp?where=documentchecklist](http://www.wes.org/apply/popups.asp?where=documentchecklist)

**Step 8:** If your documents are not in English, you will need to receive an English translation of your documents. Please, see section below.

**B. Translation of Documents through University Language Services**

University Language Services translates transcripts, certificates, and diplomas. Your documents need to be translated and sent to WES before your evaluation can be completed. For the purpose of translating your documents, you can send a copy of your documents to University Language Services for a free quote on how much it will cost you to have your documents translated, please follow the link: [https://www.universitylanguage.com/quotes/](https://www.universitylanguage.com/quotes/).

Once you have received your translated copies, communicate with University Language Services
to have your translated copies sent to WES:

WES Reference No.__________________
World Education Services
Attention: Documentation Center
64 Beaver St, #146
New York, NY 10004
U.S.A.

II. ENROLL IN THE AMERICAN BOARD FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF TEACHER EXCELLENCE (ABCTE) PROGRAM

Once WES has successfully completed your evaluation and sent it to ABCTE, you are ready to apply to the ABCTE program. The following information has been provided by the ABCTE. For more comprehensive information about the ABCTE, please visit: http://abcte.org/

A. ABCTE Program Overview

The American Board, also known as the American Board for the Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE), offers certification in 10 different subjects. The general outline for the program is enrollment and document processing, online study and test readiness webinars, participate in Prepare to Teach workshops, and successfully pass the Professional Teaching Knowledge (PTK) exam and Subject Area exam. The PTK and subject area exams will be taken at Pearson Vue Testing Centers.

Click a subject below for more information on the requirements to certify in that subject. Please note, not all subjects are available in every state.

Biology
Chemistry
Elementary Education
English Language Arts (ELA)
ABCTE Plus vs. Premium Plan

In 4 of ABCTE’s offered subjects (Biology, English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Special Education), they offer two variations of the program, Plus and Premium.

The **Plus** program provides students with the information they need to learn and pass the subject area exam and the Professional Teaching Knowledge (PTK) exam.

The **Premium** program provides students with everything included with the Plus program, along with additional study materials and practice tests. The Premium program also includes a job counseling webinar and workbook to assist our students with job hunting.

*Chemistry, General Science, Elementary Education, History, and Physics certifications are only available in Plus.

**Plus and Premium students take the same exams and receive the same certification upon passing.

ABCTE Pricing and Time

Program fee includes enrollment and document processing, Professional Teaching Knowledge (PTK) and subject area study plans, Prepare to Teach workshops, online study & test readiness webinars, practice exams for PTK and subject area, PTK exams and subject area exam testing fee at Pearson Vue Testing Centers.

**Promotional Pricing:** ABCTE offers weekly promotional pricing on their programs that can reduce the cost of the Plus program to as low as **$1850**, depending on the week. IMPORTANT
NOTE: Promotional pricing is for a one-time payment (due upon enrollment) and cannot be applied to installment payment plans. Click a subject area above or visit ABCTE home page to see this week’s promotional pricing.

Non-Promotional Pricing: If you are unable to pay for the program at one time, you will be able to pay via installment plan for the full-cost of the program, which is $2,850 for a Plus certification and $3,050 for a Premium certification. See below for payment information.

* Promotional pricing is not available for third-party vendors.

** Students will be given one year to finish the program and one 6-month extension if needed.

**Payment Options**

Students can pay for the American Board in the following ways:

1. **One-time payment.** The American Board often offers promotional pricing on one-time payments. One-time payments can vary from $1850-$2400, depending on the program you choose and the current promotion. Current one-time payment prices can be found on each subject area page (see list of subjects below).

2. **Installment payment plans.** If you are unable to make a one-time payment, we offer installment payment plans. These plans divide the full-cost of the program (promotional pricing not available for installment plans) over 8 monthly payments. Click here for more information on installment payment plans.

3. We offer financial aid to those students that qualify under the USDA’s reduced school lunch income eligibility guidelines. This significantly reduces the cost of the program. Students can then pay for the program in one payment or with an installment plan Click here for more information on financial aid.

**B. Requirements for Enrolling into ABCTE**

The following is a step by step process to enrolling into the ABCTE Program.
1. In order to enroll in the ABCTE program, you will need to make sure that you meet the American Board’s requirements:
   a. Hold a Bachelor’s degree or be within 6 months of receiving your Bachelor’s degree. Your degree does not need to be in the subject you wish to teach.
   b. Once enrolled you will need to have your WES evaluation sent to the ABCTE program.*
   c. International background check: Submit a letter from your local police or government jurisdiction verifying that you have not committed any felonies or misdemeanors while living in that jurisdiction.*

*Your international background check letter and WES Credential Evaluation should be sent director to the American Board, ATTN: Candidate Services; 641 S. Street, Suite 202C; Washington, DC 20001.

2. Next, you will need to select the state that you want to teach in. For Idaho, please click here.

3. Select the subject which you would like to be certified to teach in. The options are:
   a. Biology (6-12)*
   b. Chemistry (6-12)*
   c. Elementary Education (K-8)****
   d. English Language Arts (6-12)
   e. General Science (6-12)*
   f. History (6-12)**
   g. Mathematics (6-12)
   h. Physics (6-12)*
   i. Reading Endorsement (K-12)*****
   j. Special Education (K-12)***

*Candidates who are seeking an endorsement in Natural Science in Idaho must choose biology, physics or chemistry on their application upon enrollment and pass that selected
single subject science assessment in addition to ABCTE general science assessment and PTK assessment.

**In order to obtain a History endorsement in Idaho, candidates must complete both the U.S. History and the World History assessments in addition to passing the PTK assessment.

***In order to be a special education teacher in Idaho, a candidate must obtain an Exceptional Child certificate with a Generalist K-12 endorsement. To obtain this certificate and endorsement through ABCTE a candidate must complete the PTK assessment, the elementary multiple subjects assessment and the special education assessment.

****For candidates looking to become certified in Elementary Education, please note that your certification will cover grades K-8. If you are seeking to teach at the middle school level, you will be required to take the Middle School Praxis Exam for a specific content area.

*****Reading Endorsement is an add-on only, meaning you cannot certify in reading alone. See the Reading Endorsement page above for more information.

4. Once you have selected the subject area that you would like to be certified in, please read through the requirements to earn that certification.

5. Next, you will need to register for the ABCTE program.

C. Register for ABCTE

Please, register and create an account with ABCTE to access a free trial of the course materials. Click here.

The ABCTE Program Checklist, is also a helpful guide that you can use to track your progress in the program and it gives you a week-by-week checklist of things that you will complete while in the course.
D. ABCTE Examinations:

PTK EXAMINATION

*The following information has been provided by the ABCTE. You are required to download and read their Professional Teaching Knowledge Study Plan.

PTK Exam Fee

The first PTK exam fee is included in your ABCTE fees. If you fail the exam, you have 3 additional times to take the exam for a fee of $195, payable to ABCTE. This can be paid in your American Board Dashboard (Mypass) account that you set up when you enroll into ABCTE.

General Testing Content

The Professional Teaching Knowledge exam is designed to assess a new teacher’s knowledge of teaching-related criteria. Such knowledge is typically obtained in undergraduate preparation in areas such as human development, classroom management, instructional design and delivery techniques, assessment, and other professional preparation. This exam also contains a writing component that will evaluate a candidate’s ability to write to audiences they will most likely address as a teacher: parents, colleagues, and/or school administrators.

The PTK is a multiple-choice exam with a writing component. There are a total of 100 multiple choice questions with one written component. The time length for the test is 150 minutes for the multiple-choice part and 60 minutes for the written component. The following is the general exam summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Domains</th>
<th>Approximate Percentage of Examination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructional</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effective Instructional Delivery</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Management and Organization</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The PTK writing component will consist of a prompt which in turn consists of several tasks. It is critical that you address every task to get a passing grade (4 or higher out of 6) on the writing component.

**PTK Registration Process**

Once you have been enrolled into the ABCTE program and have studied for the PTK exam, you will be able to take the exam by creating an account with Pearson Vue under the ABCTE program. Here, you will be able to schedule, reschedule, or cancel an exam. [Click Here](#) to schedule your PTK exam.

**PTK Practice Test**

Enrollment in the American Board program includes access to subject matter refresher courses, practice exams, and the Prepare to Teach workshops. Study plans also have writing and composition tools, and materials from comprehensive database of recommended books, websites, and other media.

**Failing/Retaking the PTK**

A candidate has three attempts to fail the Professional Teaching Knowledge exam for an additional fee of $195 which is paid to ABCTE in your American Board Dashboard (Mypass) account. If the candidate fails the exam three times, they are no longer eligible to pursue a teacher’s certificate through ABCTE.

**SUBJECT AREA EXAMINATION**

Since every subject area is different, there is no standard guide for these exams. You will be able to access your individual study plan through your Mypass account. If you have not enrolled and would like specific information about Subject Area Examinations that apply to your interest,
please contact an ABCTE counselor at 1-877-669-2228. Office hours for ABCTE are 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM EST Mon-Friday

III. IDAHO STATE TEACHING REQUIREMENTS FOR ABCTE PARTICIPANTS

After finishing the ABCTE program and receiving an ABCTE certification, also known as the ABCTE Passport to Teaching, candidates are required to complete a mentoring component as a condition of full certification/endorsement through the state; however, a district administrator must complete the final evaluation of a candidate’s performance. The following steps outline the process that it takes to use an ABCTE certificate in Idaho:

For more information about these requirements, please click here.

1. The candidate MUST have successfully completed the ABCTE program and been issued the ABCTE “Passport to Teaching” certificate.

   NOTE: It is highly recommended to provide potential hiring districts with a copy of the ABCTE “Passport to Teaching Certificate” and secure a position in the content area and grade level of certification PRIOR to application for an Idaho three (3)-year interim certificate. A candidate can assure the district that the state will have direct reciprocity with the ABCTE “Passport to Teaching” certificate and will issue the three (3)-year interim certificate upon application and clearance of a Criminal History Check (CHC).

2. Applicants must successfully pass a Criminal History Check for the Idaho Department of Education. For more information, click here.

3. The candidate submits an application for an Idaho three (3)-year interim certificate/credential $134.75 ($100 for the certification and $34.75 for the background certification) to the Idaho State Department of Education. Click here for more information on the interim certificate application.

   *IMPORTANT NOTICE: The Interim Certificates are valid for 3 years; you will need
to find a job within one year of issuance of the Interim Certificate for this route to certification to work. Because of this, it is strongly recommend that you NOT apply for the Interim Certificate until a job is eminent. If a school district is hiring ABCTE applicants, the school should be able to accept their application for certification based on confirmation that they qualify for an Interim Certificate, proof would be the ABCTE Passport to Teaching.

4. The candidate teaches in the content area and grade level of certification as a Teacher of Record and simultaneously completes a required 2-year mentoring program and 3 “projects”:
   a. Performance Assessment Portfolio containing a minimum of two artifacts per domain.
   b. Literature Review of Best Practices in the Content Area
   c. Impact on Student Learning Project
   d. Once the 2 years of mentored teaching and all other requirements are met, the teacher has the mentor sign the Mentor Checklist and then the building evaluator and superintendent sign the Evaluator Checklist

* The candidate will meet the Idaho Comprehensive Literacy requirement as provided in statute, if applicable.
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6. Upon successful completion of the mentoring program, the candidate can apply for the clear five (5)-year, renewable certificate/credential subsequent. For more information, please click here.

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Up to now, this guide has explained the steps for WES Evaluation, ABCTE Program, and Idaho Teaching Certification. Another Non-Traditional Route for Candidates is Teach For America, explained in the next section, click here.
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Idaho does issue a Bilingual Education K-12 endorsement that can be placed on a Standard Elementary or Standard Secondary Certificate. The Bilingual endorsement is not specific to any particular language, and requires completion of an Idaho-approved Bilingual Education teacher certification program to add the endorsement.

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The teacher education program will focus on the pedagogy of ESL, and may be combined with, or separate from, your major course of study. Classes you will take include subjects such as:

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- Developing lesson plans for English language learners
- ESL assessments and evaluations
- Teaching students from diverse cultural backgrounds
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5. BEYOND LICENSING
Here are a few more things to think about if you are considering teaching certification:

JOINING A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
- **State:** Idaho Education Association
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There are many other professional associations that bring together teachers based on different characteristics like subject matter, grades taught, ethnicity, gender, and religion.
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- Pearson Vue Testing Center

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It is required that you have a professional organization translate your documents and send them to programs that require translations.

EXPLORE ALTERNATIVES
Try substitute teaching or working as a paraprofessional in the district where you would like to work. This will help you develop relationships with the administration and can lead to a more permanent job offers.

CONSIDER PRIVATE SCHOOLS
Private schools have the ability to be a little more flexible about teaching requirements. Contact local private schools for more information. Click here to find out what private schools are in Idaho.
TEACH FOR AMERICA PATHWAY

1. HOW THE PROFESSION IS ORGANIZED IN IDAHO

THE IDAHO EDUCATION SYSTEM

The Idaho State Department of Education provides Teaching certificates to individuals who successfully complete schooling at an accredited university, looking for reciprocity from teaching in another state, or having completed an alternative teaching certification program like ABCTE. Once you obtain a 5-year, renewable Idaho teaching certificate, continuing education requirement is 6 credits earned during the 5-year validity period.

* Your Idaho teaching license will not work in other states: you have to reapply for certification in each state you move to.

TYPES OF IDAHO TEACHING CERTIFICATES THROUGH TEACH FOR AMERICA

The different certifications that are offered in Idaho are:

- Biology
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Earth Sciences
- Health Careers
- Math
- Tech Education
- English
- Special Education
- Elementary

*It costs $75 to apply for interim and standard teaching certificates.*

MARKET FOR TEACHERS IN IDAHO

There is a high demand for teachers that concentrate on teaching in science, math, special education, and bilingual classrooms. The average salary for teachers in Idaho varies; [click here](#) to find out more.
Private schools or public charters are other employment areas that are useful to look at. These schools do not always require the same standards as the Idaho State Department of Education to teach. Many of these schools however have low pay and benefits compared to public schools.

2. TIME AND COSTS

The time and cost it takes to receive your Idaho teaching certificate depends on many factors, including:

- What agency you choose to evaluate your credentials, we recommend World Education Service (WES).
- The time it takes to have your degree issuing institute send your official records to WES.
- Also, a detailed and official description of classes you took is helpful.
- The cost and speed of services in the state of Idaho

Below, we provide a hypothetical scenario to outline the steps, costs, and time associated with the entire process that an individual will have to go through to become a teacher in Idaho. Please note, this is a general example out of many possibilities. Your experience will vary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>More Efficient Scenario</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Degree evaluation by a credential organization | • Your documents arrive and need translated  
• The credentialing organization completes your evaluation and sends it to TEACH FOR AMERICA.  
• This process can take 1 to 6 months depending on how fast the issuing institution can send your official records.  
• + $300 |
| 2. Completing the Teach For America program | • Application to Teach For America is Free!  
• Summer Training-2 months  
• Praxis Subject Assessment exam-$120-150  
• This normally takes 2-3 months to complete with varying costs for the summer training course, room, board, and transportation to and from |
### More Efficient Scenario

**Approximate Time and Cost**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>More Efficient Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>About 2.5 years + average $1,510</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Idaho State Teaching Requirements**

- Apply for Interim Certificate: $100
- Complete fingerprint card: $34.75
- Complete teaching and 2-year mentorship requirements
- 3 years + During this time you will be able to make money.

4. **Apply for Idaho Teaching Certificate**

- Apply for five (5) year certification: $75
- 2 weeks

### 3. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSING

**OVERVIEW**

There are four steps foreign-educated teachers must take in order to become certified in the state of Idaho:
**IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION:**
For Teach For America you will be required to receive a credential evaluation and have the report sent to Teach For America. We recommend having your credentials evaluated by World Education Services. However, there are a few other agencies that Teach For America accepts for credential evaluation. These include:

1. **American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers** (AACRAO)
2. **Association of International Credential Evaluators** (AICE)
3. **National Association of Credential Evaluation Services** (NACES)

Below, we will show an example of the process it would take to go through World Education Services.

I. **WORLD EDUCATION SERVICES’ CREDENTIAL EVALUATION**

Applicants who have degrees or coursework from foreign universities must have their transcripts translated to English (if applicable) and a 4.0 grade scale. These transcripts are not required at the time of the initial application, but must be uploaded should an applicant be invited to a final interview, prior to the final interview according to the specified deadline. For the initial application, GPA by year is self-reported, so obtaining the translated transcripts early could be helpful but is not required.

The following information has been provided by the Word Education Services (WES). For more comprehensive information on WES’s Credential Evaluation Services, please visit: [http://www.wes.org/jobSeekers/index.asp](http://www.wes.org/jobSeekers/index.asp)

* You will be required to receive a course-by-course evaluation of your foreign credentials.

A. **Complete WES Online Application and Submit Payment**

The following is a step-by-step process for applying to WES for a credential evaluation:

**Step 1:** Go to [http://www.wes.org/application/apply_now.asp](http://www.wes.org/application/apply_now.asp) and under “Step 1: Review the Links Below” choose the country where you received your education from. It will show you a list of documents that you will be required to have sent to WES for an evaluation.
Step 2: Next, click on the Apply Now for use in the U.S. Once you do this, you will need to create an account with accurate information about you and your credentials.

Step 3: Once you have filled out all of your information you will be asked for which services you would like to choose. It is recommended that you choose the WES ICAP Course-by-Course evaluation. This costs $205.

Step 4: Next, add the recipient that will be receiving your credential evaluation, which will be Teach For America:

Please, request that your university send your transcripts to the following address: Teach For America

Upon receipt of your transcripts, you will receive an email from the Teach For America Records department stating that this requirement has been met.

Step 5: Select how you would like your evaluation sent, Standard, Overnight, 2nd Day Air, 3-5 Days… The price range can vary between $7-30.

Step 6: Once you have completed your online application, you will receive a reference number that will need to be included in your documents sent to WES by your documents’ issuing institution. MAKE SURE that your issuing institution sends your documents correctly. Click here to see an example. Follow this link to access the “Academic Records Request Form”.

Step 7: Make sure that you follow the document submission checklist:
http://www.wes.org/apply/popups.asp?where=documentchecklist

Step 8: If your documents are not in English, you will need to receive an English translation of your documents. Please, see section below.

B. Translation of Documents through University Language Services

Back to Top
University Language Services translates transcripts, certificates, and diplomas. Your documents need to be translated and sent to WES before your evaluation can be completed. For the purpose of translating your documents, you can send a copy of your documents to University Language Services for a free quote on how much it will cost you to have your documents translated, please follow the link: https://www.universitylanguage.com/quotes/.

Once you have received your translated copies, communicate with University Language Services to have your translated copies sent to WES:

WES Reference No.__________________
World Education Services
Attention: Documentation Center
64 Beaver St, #146
New York, NY 10004
U.S.A.

II. ENROLL IN THE TEACH FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

Once WES has successfully completed your evaluation and sent it to Teach For America, you are ready to apply to the Teach For America program. The following information has been provided by the Teach For America. For more comprehensive information about the Teach For America, please visit: https://www.teachforamerica.org/

B. Teach For America Program Overview

Teach For America selects a corps of recent college graduates, graduate students, and professionals to teach for two years and help students in low-income communities to make the academic progress that will expand their opportunities for the future.

If you are selected to participate in Teach For America, you need to choose the region in which you would like to serve, attend a 2 month summer orientation, successfully take and pass the Praxis Subject Assessment examination, and teach for two years under the mentorship of a
certified Idaho teacher. It is also IMPORTANT TO NOTE that you might not be able to teach in the region where you currently reside. You are given choices of where you would like to teach, but the overall decision is made by Teach For America.

It is important to note, Teach For America does not employ teachers nor does it pay you for all of your summer training. The school districts that you are hired by will pay you and Teach For America pays for the summer training course, room, board, and transportation to and from schools where you will be teaching during your two months. You will need to incur the costs for transportation to summer training, and all other expenses associated with summer training.

The areas of study that you can choose to teach in Idaho are:

1. Biology
2. Anatomy & Physiology
3. Earth Sciences
4. Health Careers
5. Math
6. Tech Education
7. English
8. Special Education
9. Elementary

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TEACH FOR AMERICA THAT INCLUDES REGIONAL AND SUBJECT PLACEMENT, FINANCIAL RESOURCES WHILE YOU ARE TRAINING AND MORE, PLEASE CLICK HERE!*

*Pricing and Time*

There is no fee for applying to Teach For America. The time length of the program is two-years.
Compensation and Benefits

Corps members are full-time teachers employed by school districts. They receive full salaries and the same comprehensive health benefits as other beginning teachers. Additional funding may be available for individuals who need help with relocation, testing, start-up costs. The compensation for Teach for America can be as follows:

1. Salary
2. Health Insurance
3. Retirement benefits
4. Money for relocation and transition
5. Educator discounts
6. Exclusive scholarships and benefits from graduate schools and employers

B. Requirements for Enrolling into Teach For America

The following is a step by step process to enrolling into the Teach For America program.

1. In order to enroll in the Teach For America program, you will need to make sure that you meet the requirements:
   a. Hold a Bachelor’s degree or be within 6 months of receiving your Bachelor’s degree. Your degree does not need to be in the subject you wish to teach.
   b. Must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or equivalent to with a applicants international degree.
   c. You must be a citizen, national/legal resident, or DACA status individual.
   d. Once enrolled you will need to have your WES evaluation sent to the Teach For America program.*
   e. Background check: This will be done by Teach For America.
C. Apply for Teach For America and Process Overview

In order to successfully join the Teach For America program, you must the following admissions process: For more information about the application process, please follow this link. For more information about Preparation Tips for successfully completing the application process, please click here.

1. Online Application:
   a. You will want to create an account by clicking “Start My Application” under the “Apply” dropdown on the top right corner of the Teach For America website. www.teachforamerica.org. You will be able to access the application through the account that you registered.
   b. You will need to complete the four sections of the online application:
      i. Personal Information
      ii. Academic History
      iii. Leadership Experience
      iv. Why Teach For America
   c. Submit an your resume. The following link is an example of an acceptable resume. Click Here.
   d. Review and Submit your application.

2. Phone Interview:
   a. After your application has been submitted, you will be notified that your application was received. During this time, you will wait to receive an email that invites you to a phone interview. For this, you will sign up for a date and time on the Applicant Center of your account. The dates and times are first come, first served.
   b. Make sure that the phone number that you provide is the phone number that you will have access to during the time and date you requested for an interview.
   c. After signing up for the interview, you will see the confirmation of the date and time after you sign up. You will not receive an email, please makes sure you write down the date and time.
*IMPORTANT NOTE: When Teach For America calls for the interview it will show up as a blocked call on your phone. Please, make sure that you answer the phone.

d. If you are invited to continue the application process you will need to provide Teach For America the contact information for two recommendations and one reference
   i. Recommenders: Should be someone who supervised you in a professional, academic, or extracurricular activity. Friends, family members, family friends, and colleagues/peers are not recommended. If you are currently working, select your current manager.
   ii. Reference: These may or may not be contacted and do not have to complete and Online Recommendation Form. They will be contacted by phone for information about you. It is also important to not have recommenders be references. They must all be separate individuals.

3. Online Activity:
   a. All applicants that are invited to attend a final interview must complete an online activity that consists of multiple-choice and short answer questions.
      i. You will need to complete this all at once. It will take at least 2 hours.
      ii. You will be given three days to complete the online activity. If you do not complete it within three days you will not be allowed to come to the interview.

4. Final Interviews:
   a. If you successfully complete the online activity, you will be able to sign up for a final interview on the Applicant Center.
   b. You will be able to choose an in-person or online interview.
   c. You will be required to have four forms that will need to be completed.
      i. Both of your Online Recommendation Forms
      ii. Your Coursework Information Form
      iii. Your Assignment Preference Form
   d. The interview day consists of:
i. A sample teaching lesson that you will show the interviewers, this takes about five-minutes.

ii. A group activity

iii. An information session about Teach For America’s mission

iv. A personal interview where you will discuss specific experiences listed on your application

e. 10-12 applicants attend each interview day, along with two interviewers

f. Make sure to upload one scanned official transcript from every college of university that you have attended.

g. Upload photocopies of your ID and employment eligibility.

*If you are invited for a final interview, you will receive detailed instructions on your status page about what you need to be successful in the interview.

5. Receiving admissions into the program:

a. After 3-4 weeks after the interview you will receive your final admissions decision. If you are offered a teaching position, you will have 2 weeks to respond to your offer. This will all be notified through your status page. Notification dates will be after 8pm on November 4, January 6, March 17, and April 25. You will be assigned a region and a subject area, this is where you can decline or accept the offer.

6. Summer Training:

a. All accepted Teach For America individuals will be required to attend a 2 month summer training session. This session will include the following:

i. Five-day regional induction

ii. Five to seven week residential institute training and teaching summer school.

iii. One to two week regional orientation.

b. You will be required to live in the area of orientation. For Idaho, you will be sent to Oklahoma.

c. You will not be paid during summer training; we will provide room and meals in local university housing. In most cases, special accommodations are available for corps members with partners and families. While institute is a rigorous and
intensive experience, you will have free time during weekends to socialize and explore your institute city. Read more about need-based transitional loans and grants or use our regional comparison tool to estimate your expenses.

d. For more information about the Summer Training, please click here.

D. PRAXIS SUBJECT ASSESSMENTS EXAMINATION

You will need to take the PRAXIS Subject Assessment prior to teaching. This can also be before your summer training. Teach For America will help you with this process. For more information about the overall Praxis Subject Assessment, you are required to read The Praxis Series Information Bulletin.

Praxis Subject Assessment Overview

The Praxis Subject Assessments measure knowledge of specific subjects that K–12 educators will teach, as well as general and subject-specific teaching skills and knowledge.

Praxis Subject Assessment Exam Fee

The Praxis Subject Assessment exams are based off the specific area in which you are choosing to teach or have an endorsement in. Prices vary based on the subject matter that you will take. For teaching fees, please click here.

Praxis Subject Assessment General Testing Content

Since every test is based on a different subject matter, you will need to look up the specifics of the exam you will take. For more information about what tests are offered in Idaho and the detailed outline of these tests, click here.

Praxis Subject Assessment Registration Process

For a detailed outline about how to register for the Praxis Subject Assessment, please click here, or more information about where to test in your area, please click here.

Praxis Subject Assessment Practice Test

For free and low-cost test preparation materials including study companions, videos, webinars, and interactive practice tests follow the link: www.ets.org/praxis/prepare
Failing/Retaking the Praxis Subject Assessment Exam

You may retake a Praxis test once every 21 days, not including your initial test date. (Note: If you take a combined test, such as the Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Test or the PA Grades 4–8 Core Assessment, you cannot retake a subtest until after the 21-day period.)

This applies even if you canceled your scores on a test taken previously. If you violate this restriction, the scores from your retest will not be reported and your test fees will not be refunded.

Important Information

- If you test in Idaho, your score report will be sent automatically to the Idaho State Department of Education. If you test outside of Idaho, select the Idaho State Department of Education (state code 8636) as a score recipient when you register or on an additional score report request.

- Idaho requires a Social Security number (SSN) in order to process educator certification paperwork. ETS does not require your SSN for its own purposes, but will submit it to Idaho with your test results. Failure to provide your SSN could delay processing of your certification application.

- As of the 2014–15 testing year, ETS discontinued paper-delivered testing. However, tests will be available in a paper-delivered format as required for ADA accommodations. All scores for previously administered paper-delivered tests are reportable for 10 years from the date the test was taken.

III. IDAHO STATE TEACHING REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACH FOR AMERICA PARTICIPANTS

After finishing the Teach For America program and receiving a Teach For America recommendation certification candidates are required to complete a mentoring component as a condition of full certification/endorsement through the state; however, a district administrator must complete the final evaluation of a candidate’s performance. The following steps outline the process that it takes to use a Teach For America certificate in Idaho:
For more information about these requirements, please click here.

1. The candidate **MUST** have successfully completed the Teach For America Training Institute (Summer Training) and pass the applicable Praxis Subject Assessment content area exam. Once a candidate has done this, they will receive a Teach For America Verification of Completion letter.
   
   a. This is the recommendation that will be sent to the Idaho State Department of Education for approval to sign up for the interim certification.

2. The candidate submits an application for an Idaho three (3)-year interim certificate/credential which is $134.75 (**$100 for the certification and $34.75 for the background certification**) to the State Department of Education. Click here for more information on the interim certificate application.

   **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** The Interim Certificates are valid for 3 years; you will need to find a job within one year of issuance of the Interim Certificate for this route to certification to work. Because of this, it is strongly recommend that you NOT apply for the Interim Certificate until a job is eminent. If a school district is hiring Teach For America applicants, the school should be able to accept their application for certification based on confirmation that they **qualify** for an Interim Certificate, proof would be the Teach For America Verification of Completion letter.

3. Applicants must successfully pass a Criminal History Check for the Idaho Department of Education. For more information, click here. Once this has been completed and the applicant has been cleared, the applicant will be issued a (3)-year interim certificate.

4. The candidate teaches in the content area and grade level of certification as a Teacher of Record and simultaneously completes a required (2)-year mentoring program and 3 “projects”:
a. Performance Assessment Portfolio containing a minimum of two artifacts per domain.

b. Literature Review of Best Practices in the Content Area

c. Impact on Student Learning Project

d. Once the 2 years of mentored teaching and all other requirements are met, the teacher has the mentor sign the Mentor Checklist and then the building evaluator and superintendent sign the Evaluator Checklist

e. In order to fully fulfill Teach For America’s program, you will also need to attend monthly professional development workshops throughout your service.

f. The applicant will need to provide a final Institutional Recommendation from Teach for America before the (5)-year teaching certificate is issued.

* The candidate will meet the Idaho Comprehensive Literacy requirement as provided in statute, if applicable.

** The candidate will meet the Mathematical Thinking for Instruction requirement as provided in statute, if applicable.

6. Upon successful completion of the mentoring program, the candidate can apply for the clear five (5)-year, renewable certificate/credential subsequent. For more information, please click here.

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CONSIDER PRIVATE SCHOOLS
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How to Send a Sealed Envelope to WES

- Academic documents must be mailed in official, sealed envelopes bearing the institution's name.
- The seal, stamp, or signature of an official officer must overlap the back flap closure and envelope.
- The sealed envelope should be sent directly to WES by the institution. If your institution will not mail the envelope directly to WES, the applicant may send it.
- To be considered official and accepted by WES, the envelope must remain sealed. If the envelope is opened and/or the seal is broken, the academic documents will be rejected.

Sample Back of Sealed Envelope

Sample Front of Envelope