

## Emergency teacher certificates

PESB has filed [emergency rule](#) allowing approved preparation programs to recommend teacher candidates for an emergency certificate if they have met all requirements for program completion with the exception of one or more of the assessments.

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### What is an emergency certificate?

Programs may recommend candidates for an emergency certificate if the candidate has completed all program requirements, including coursework and clinical practice, with the exception of one or more of the assessment requirements. This emergency teacher certificate is valid for one year, and may be reissued for one additional year upon program recommendation.

A teacher can practice with this certificate anywhere in Washington State as it is not district specific.

Once a candidate has completed all assessment requirements, their preparation program can then recommend them for residency certification.

### What are the deadlines for program recommendations for an emergency certificate?

Emergency certificates have a validity period of one year. Programs may recommend candidates for a first emergency certificate no later than December 31, 2021. Programs may recommend candidates for a second emergency certificate no later than June 30, 2022.

### How do candidates apply for this emergency certificate, and what is the deadline?

Candidates should contact their preparation programs directly for information on emergency certificates. Once a program has recommended a candidate for the certificate, they will need to complete the application through the OSPI Certification Office.

Candidates recommended for an emergency certificate must apply for that certificate no later than December 31, 2022.

## **What if a candidate with an emergency certificate completes all the requirements for a residency certificate?**

Candidates with emergency certificates who complete all the requirements for a residency certificate can be recommended by the program for the residency certificate through eCertification following normal procedures.

## **Which assessments are included in this emergency certificate policy?**

The basic skills, content knowledge and performance assessments are included in the emergency certificate policy. This includes the edTPA, WEST-E, WEST-B, and NES.

## **What role does the preparation program play in this emergency certificate?**

Programs are required to inform, advise, and support candidates on assessment requirements while they hold the emergency certificate, just as they are for other candidates who have not yet been recommended for a residency certificate. [WAC 181-78a-231(3)]. Programs can recommend a candidate for this emergency certificate if the candidate has completed all requirements for program completion, with the exception of one or more of the assessments.

## **What options are available for completing clinical practice (student teaching)?**

A candidate whose clinical practice hours have been waived or reduced under recent PESB emergency rule would still be eligible for this certificate.

PESB has filed [emergency rule](#) allowing educator preparation programs to review a candidate's course work, field experience, work experience, and alternative learning experience. Based on this review, the preparation program may then waive or reduce in length the clinical practice and course work if they determine the candidate has the required knowledge and skills.

Clinical practice can take place in educational settings through remote instruction, online learning, at alternate locations, or as part of an extended school year.

## **How is this emergency certificate different from a conditional certificate?**

Conditional certificates are only available at district request, and only allow the individual to serve in that specific school district.

This emergency teacher certificate is available at the recommendation of a preparation program, and allows the individual to serve anywhere the state. Unlike the conditional certificate, the emergency certificate requires the candidate to have met all preparation program completion requirements with the exception of one or more of the assessment requirements.

Individuals who are not eligible for emergency certificates may be eligible for conditional certificates. Find out more about [conditional certificates](#).

## Emergency certificates and the dual endorsement requirement

Because it is not a residency certificate, the dual endorsement requirement does not apply to the emergency certificate. Candidates need to complete the dual endorsement requirement to obtain a residency certificate. A program provider could follow this process to recommend a candidate.

1. If a candidate has met all program completion requirements with the exception of one or more of the assessment requirements, the program could recommend the candidate for the emergency certificate. For the emergency certificate, a program could recommend in a single endorsement only, including special education, early childhood special education, English language learner, bilingual education, or science.
2. Once a candidate has completed all requirements for program completion, including all the assessment requirements, the program can recommend the candidate for a residency certificate.
3. The candidate needs to complete the dual endorsement requirement prior to obtaining the residency certificate. This could include passing a content knowledge assessment for a test-only endorsement, or completing an endorsement program for a program plus test endorsement.

For more information, please see the [dual endorsement FAQ](#).

## Questions?

- Educators can contact the OSPI certification office at [cert@k12.wa.us](mailto:cert@k12.wa.us) or (360) 725-6400. Certificate information is also available [online](#), and in individual [eCertification](#) accounts.
- Questions on policy can be directed to PESB at [pesb@k12.wa.us](mailto:pesb@k12.wa.us).
- Find out about other [PESB guidance and policy](#) related to COVID response.

# frequently asked questions