### HOW TO BECOME A TEACHER IN NEW MEXICO: NM’s Pathways for Earning a Level I Teaching License or Certificate

**June 2005**

#### Required
- 30 - 36 hours of professional education in an approved teacher preparation program for licensure in elementary or middle school; 24 - 30 hours for secondary; 24-36 for k-12; 30 hours for special education; 36-42 for early childhood.
- Program varies by school, but it must include at least the alternative licensure program requirements.

**Elementary / Special Education:**
- 12 - 21 hours (including reading) in an approved program for licensure.
- Secondary: 12 - 18 hours (including reading) in an approved program for licensure.

**Candidate**
- Must hold a Bachelor's, Masters, and/or Ph.D.
- Degree transcripts must include 30 hours in first content area(s) & 24 hours in subsequent content area(s), or 12 graduate level hours in content area(s), or a PhD in the content area(s).
- Successfully demonstrate the initial competencies for the license(s) being sought.

**Secondary or K-12:**
- THREE hours in the teaching of reading
- Program must include a student teaching or field-based component.

**Candidate is HIGHLY QUALIFIED** & can be hired to teach on an interim license as the teacher of record, (as long as he/she is assigned to teach in his/her area of expertise).
- A candidate has 1-3 years to fulfill the requirements for earning a Level I Teaching License. The interim license is nonrenewable.

**What programs are available to support candidates?**
- NM Teacher Loan for Service (including T2T in Gallup, Raton, and Four Corners)
- NM Teacher Loan for Service; T2T in Gallup, Raton, and Four Corners
- NM statewide Transition to Teaching at the Public Education Department District Support
- NM Statewide Transition to Teaching
- Lottery Scholarships; NM Teacher Loan for Service Federal and State Student Aid; Local Scholarships

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<td>Traditional Licensure Program</td>
<td>General Degree Requirements: 24-36 hours in content area; 12 hours English, 12 hours history; 6 hours math; 6 hours gov't.; econ., or soc.; 12 hours science; 6 hours fine arts; Admission to an approved Teacher Preparation Program. Everyone: Basic Skills Elementary: Elementary Content, &amp; Elementary Competency Special Education: SIX hours in the teaching of reading</td>
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| Vocational Technical Education Teacher | (1) Bachelor's with 32 credit hours of vocational-technical training in the occupational area; or (2) Associate's plus 2 years work experience; or (3) Certificate plus 3 years work experience; or (4) High School Diploma(GED) plus 5 years work experience. | Path A: | 15 semester hours of professional education which address the secondary voc-tech competencies; OR Path B: A district or private school may develop and implement a Professional Development Plan (PDP) in lieu of the required 15 hours and supervised student teaching experience, upon approval by the PED, the PDP shall be used to meet licensure requirements. The PDP must address the secondary voc-tech competencies. More than 1 district/private school may jointly prepare a PDP for approval. | | IF PATH A: Supervised classroom internship/student teaching experience through an institution of higher ed. OR through a district/ private school | Path A: Upon completion of all requirements, and applied for license at NM PED Path B: Candidate can apply for a one year license through the PED and may teach while fulfilling the requirements of the PDP. | Path A: NM Teacher Loan for Service; T2T in Gallup, Raton, and Four Corners Path B: NM Statewide Transition to Teaching

**Certificate in Native Language & Culture**
- Bachelor’s NOT required (i.e. person could be an elder or someone that knows the language and culture well). Persons seeking level I certification shall meet the requirements established by each NM Native American tribe or pueblo, who has signed an agreement with the Secretary of Education, to determine an acceptable standard of competence & language proficiency to teach the language and culture. The candidate must provide the Professional Licensure Bureau with verification from a NM tribe or pueblo authority that the candidate meets the standards & criteria for competence & language proficiency to teach the language & culture. This certificate is limited to teaching native language and culture only.

**For more information go to [www.teachnewmexico.org](http://www.teachnewmexico.org) -- To apply for your license or certificate, download the application at [www.ped.state.nm.us](http://www.ped.state.nm.us)**