

# Louisiana's HIGHLY QUALIFIED Definition For "New" Teachers

## New ELEMENTARY Teacher (Grades 1-5)

- Must hold a valid elementary school education teaching certificate or a special education certificate that includes elementary school grades (with no emergency, temporary, or provisional waivers), and
- Must pass the Louisiana content-specific elementary education licensing exam.

## New MIDDLE SCHOOL Teacher (Grades 6-8)

- Must hold a valid teaching certificate appropriate for grades 6-8 or a special education certificate that includes middle school grades (with no emergency, temporary, or provisional waivers), and
- Must have accomplished at least one of the following:
  - a. Passed the state subject-specific licensing examination for middle school academic content area or secondary academic content for every core academic subject the individual teaches; or
  - b. Completed coursework equivalent to an academic major in a content area for every core academic subject the individual teaches; or
  - c. Earned a master's degree in a content area for every core academic subject the individual teaches.

## New SECONDARY Teacher (Grades 9-12)

- Must hold a valid secondary education teaching certificate for every core academic subject the individual teaches (with no emergency, temporary, or provisional waivers); and
- Must have accomplished at least one of the following:
  - a. Passed the state subject-specific licensing examination for a secondary academic content area for every core academic subject the individual teaches; or
  - b. Completed coursework equivalent to an academic major in a content area for every core academic subject the individual teaches; or
  - c. Earned a master's degree in a content area for every core academic subject the individual teaches.

# Louisiana's HIGHLY QUALIFIED Definition

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Do teachers holding Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT) certificates, Out of Field Authorization to Teach (OFAT) certificates, or Temporary Employment Permit (TEP) certificates meet the highly qualified requirements of NCLB?**

- TATs, OFATs, and TEPs are non-standard, temporary certificates issued in Louisiana. Teachers holding a temporary certificate do not meet the NCLB definition of highly qualified because they do not hold full state certification.

### **Does a teacher holding a Practitioner License (PL1, PL2, PL3 or PL4) meet the highly qualified requirements of NCLB?**

- A Practitioner License (PL) is given to an individual in an alternate certification program who has passed the required content area examination. Consequently, the individual meets the highly qualified definition of NCLB. (If a university grants provisional admission to a candidate without the individual passing the required content examination, then a PL is not issued and the individual does not meet the highly qualified requirements.)

### **May a teacher who is highly qualified to teach one subject area teach additional subjects, and still be considered highly qualified, if he/she has an emergency certificate or temporary permit to teach those subjects?**

- No. The highly qualified definition requires a teacher to demonstrate a high level of competency in each core academic subject he/she teaches. Hence, the teacher described in this question is highly qualified in terms of the first subject but not in terms of the additional subject. The teacher will not be considered highly qualified in the additional subject area until he/she has the appropriate valid teaching certificate for every area he/she teaches.

### **Does the highly qualified requirement of NCLB apply to all public school teachers?**

- The highly qualified requirement applies to teachers of **core academic subjects**. The term "core academic subjects" means English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography. In the area of arts, states may determine which arts courses will be considered core academic subjects.

### **Which arts courses in Louisiana are considered core academic subjects?**

- The No Child Left Behind statute requires that a state decide which art courses be considered as core academic subjects. For purposes of the NCLB highly qualified definition, Louisiana has defined "arts as a core academic subject" to include all secondary visual and performing arts courses for which Carnegie units (high school credits) are awarded. This would include speech/drama, voice, band, etc.



“ By learning you will teach,  
by teaching you will learn. ”

-- Latin Proverb