



To: All Principals
From: Karen Tarabochia, Assistant Superintendent/Personnel
Re: Alternative Certification Options
Date: February 2010

As you proceed with hiring for next year, you may find that it becomes necessary to consider alternative certification for a candidate who does not currently have state certification yet fits your particular needs. Outlined below are the options that the state currently provides. You may direct teachers to the following website for information and applications: www.k12.wa.us/certification/teacher/limited2.aspx I would urge you to see that all your teachers apply for certification – even part-time music, art or P.E. teachers. As you will note below, there are certifications available to them.

CONTRACTED TEACHING

A Conditional Certificate can be issued to a person who meets the age, good moral character and personal fitness requirements of the state, who is highly qualified and experienced in the subject matter to be taught when an otherwise certificated person is not available. The school bears the responsibility for training and inservicing this person who also agrees to complete sixty clock hours (six quarter or four semester hours) of pedagogy within three months of employment. These hours do not have to be in a university program. This certificate is valid for two years or less. It may be renewed.

An Emergency Certificate can be granted for a specific position upon your recommendation to persons who have substantially completed a program of preparation when no otherwise, qualified candidate is available or when the position is essential and circumstances warrant consideration of issuance of an emergency certificate. You are the recommending agent. You set the criteria for what makes this person qualified. It is also granted to nonimmigrant alien exchange teachers. This certificate is valid for one year.

Transitional Teaching Certificate enables a teacher whose continuing teacher certificate has lapsed to teach for 2 years while working on reinstatement of the continuing certificate. It is valid for 2 calendar years and can only be issued once in a teacher's career. Teachers must have the Superintendent's approval to request this certificate.

A Temporary Permit can be granted to a teacher applicant who has filed an application for certification or renewal and is waiting for the paperwork to process through Olympia. Your local ESD can provide this person with a temporary permit that will allow the candidate to begin teaching as soon as the fingerprint check is completed.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHING

A Substitute Certificate can be granted to a person whose teaching certificate has expired or who may have retired from teaching in another state and only wants to substitute in this state. It enables the substitute to teach any subject, any grade level up to 30 consecutive school days, and is valid for life.

Emergency Substitute Certification can be granted to a person not fully qualified if a school has exhausted its list of qualified substitutes. The certification is based upon the school administrator's recommendation of the candidate because of his/her special qualifications and the schools urgent need. This certification is valid for three years.

For the particulars regarding each of these types of certificate, feel free to contact the certification officer at your local ESD.