

Massachusetts Educator License Requirements

Initial License

Validity:

- Valid for five (5) years of employment
- Can be extended once for an additional five years

General Requirements – appropriate for a person who:

- Has a Bachelor's degree
- Has passed all required MTEL tests
- Holds the SEI endorsement (core academic teacher, principal/assistant principal, or supervisor/director only)
- Has completed one of the following:
 - An [approved educator preparation program](#) in Massachusetts **or**
 - For out of state applicants:
 - Completion of a state-approved educator preparation program in a state with which Massachusetts has signed the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement or other agreement accepted by the Commissioner; **or**
 - Completion of an educator preparation program sponsored by a college or university outside Massachusetts that has been accredited by a national organization accepted by the Commissioner; **or**
 - Possession of the equivalent of at least an Initial license/certificate issued by a state with which Massachusetts has signed the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement or other agreement accepted by the Commissioner; **or**
 - For educators prepared outside of the United States, completion of a Panel Review in accordance with Department guidelines.

Professional License

Validity:

- Valid for five (5) calendar years
- Renewable every five (5) years thereafter

General Requirements – appropriate for a person who:

- Holds an Initial license in the same field as the Professional license sought;
- Has been employed under the Initial license for at least three (3) years and has completed a one-year induction program with a mentor and at least 50 hours of a mentored experience beyond the induction year.
- Has completed one of the following:
 - An approved licensure program for the Professional license sought as set forth in the Guidelines for Program Approval; **or**

- A program leading to eligibility for master teacher status, such as those sponsored by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and others accepted by the Commissioner; **or**
- For those who have completed any master's or higher degree or other advanced graduate program in an accredited college or university, at least 12 credits of graduate level courses in subject matter knowledge or pedagogy based on the subject matter knowledge of the Professional license sought; these may include credits earned prior to application for the license.

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/licensure/academic-prek12/teacher/license-types.html#initial-license>

Educator Professional License Renewal Requirements:

Educators are required to earn 150 professional development points (PDPs) in order to be recertified in their primary area of licensure, and 30 PDPs for each additional license. Generally, one clock hour of professional development activity is equal to one PDP, although Advanced Academic Studies and some professional development can award 1.5 PDPs for each hour of activity.

Professional licenses are valid for five (5) calendar years and must be renewed in order to remain active. Professional licenses that are either one (1) year from expiring or currently on inactive status can be renewed only if the required number of Professional Development Points (PDPs) has been earned.

The following PDPs must be earned:

1. At least 15 PDPs in content (subject matter knowledge)
2. At least 15 PDPs in pedagogy (professional skills and knowledge)
3. At least 15 PDPs related to Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) or English as a Second Language (ESL)
4. At least 15 PDPs related to training in strategies for effective schooling for students with disabilities and the instruction of students with diverse learning styles

The remaining required 90 PDPs may be earned through either "elective" activities that address other educational issues and topics that improve student learning, or additional content, and/or pedagogy.

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/licensure/advance-extend-renew-license.html#renewing>