

## PRE-K CERTIFICATION FAQ

### What are NY State requirements to become certified in Early Childhood Education (Birth – Grade 2)?

In order to receive a NY State certification in [early childhood education](#), candidates must:

- Complete a NY State registered program\* in Early Childhood Education (Birth – Grade 2)
- Have institutional recommendation\*\* in Early childhood Education
- Take and pass the following NYS Teacher Certification Exams:
  - Academic Literacy Skills Test (ALST)
  - Educating All Students Test (EAS)
  - Content Specialty Test (CST) – Multi-Subject or Multi-Subject: Teachers of Early childhood (Birth – Grade 2)
  - edTPA – Early childhood
- Complete Required Workshops – Dignity For All Students Act and School Violence Intervention and Prevention
- Pass a fingerprint-based background check

Learn more about approved pathways and requirements on the [NY State Pathway to Certification website](#).

### Definitions of Key Terms

Term	Definition
*NY State Registered Program	An education program that has been approved in advance by the NY State Education Department as containing the studies required for certification as a NY State educator. You may review a list of these preapproved early childhood programs through the <a href="#">NYSED Inventory of Registered Programs</a>
**Institutional Recommendation	An online statement from a NY State institution of higher education that has an approved teacher preparation program. Through the statement, the institution recommends a candidate for certification. Contact the certification officer at your institution to ensure the recommendation has been entered. The certification officer should also supply you with a <i>Student Application Information Sheet</i> with information required to complete the online application for certification.

<p>DASA workshop</p>	<p>All applicants applying for a teaching certificate on or after December 31, 2013 are required to complete six clock hours of coursework or training in Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination Prevention and Intervention in accordance with Article 2 Sections 10-18 of the Education Law.</p> <p>Training in Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination Prevention and Intervention is available only from a provider approved by the NY State Education Department. A list of providers is available on the <a href="#">DASA providers</a> Web page. Contact the provider for workshop registration dates and times. Please note that some providers offer training that exceeds the six-hour minimum. Fees vary by provider.</p> <p>Upon completion of the workshop, the provider will electronically upload your workshop completion to TEACH. No paper workshop completion form will be required if your provider electronically uploads your completion information.</p> <p>Applicants who complete a registered teacher education program with a graduation date of February 2014 or later will be provided the required training as part of their teacher education program. These applicants, if recommended for a teaching certificate by the institution, do not need to submit a separate Certification of Completion for the DASA workshop.</p>
<p>edTPA</p>	<p>A performance-based, subject-specific assessment and support system used by teacher preparation programs throughout the United States to emphasize, measure and support the skills and knowledge that all teachers need from Day 1 in the classroom. The assessment features a common architecture focused on three tasks: Planning, Instruction, and Assessment.</p> <p>Aspiring teachers must prepare a portfolio of materials during their student teaching clinical experience. edTPA requires aspiring teachers to demonstrate readiness to teach through lesson plans designed to support their students' strengths and needs; engage real students in ambitious learning; analyze</p>

	<p>whether their students are learning, and adjust their instruction to become more effective. Teacher candidates submit unedited video recordings of themselves at work in a real classroom as part of a portfolio that is scored by highly trained educators. edTPA builds on decades of teacher performance assessment development and research regarding teaching skills and practices that improve student learning. Learn more regarding registration and fees on the <a href="#">EdTPA website</a>.</p>
CDA	<p>The Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) is a nationally recognized entry level credential in the field of Early childhood Education. It is issued by the Council for Professional Recognition. The CDA is designed for those individuals who are working with young children in all settings. It is not a required credential in order to be a teaching assistant.</p>

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Where can I find more information regarding the required Teacher Certification Exams?

Please visit the [NY State Teacher Certification Exams website](#) for detailed information about each certification exam, as well as a testing schedule.

### Where do I get fingerprinted?

Teacher candidates must be cleared by the NY State Education Department through a fingerprint-supported criminal history background check. Candidates fingerprinted and cleared by the New York City Board of Education after July 1, 1990, may submit that clearance to the State Education Department to satisfy this requirement. To be fingerprinted in New York City, you may visit the NYC Department of Education at 65 Court Street in downtown Brooklyn.

Detailed information can be found on the [HR Connect website](#).

If you are hired to teach at a NYCEEC under the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) EarlyLearn programs and charter schools, you will also be required to complete fingerprinting through DOI.

Detailed information can be found on the [Department of Investigation Fingerprint Unit website](#).

### I am already NY State certified to teach at the pre-K level. What are my next steps for applying?

You may submit an online application at [www.teachnycprek.org](http://www.teachnycprek.org). *Be sure you are completing the application for certified teachers.*

You are eligible to be hired as a pre-K teacher at a district school or at a NYC Early Education Center (NYCEEC). NYCEECs are independent, community-based organizations that partner with the NYC Department of Education to provide free full-day high quality pre-K. There are over 1,200 NYCEEC meeting the diverse needs of families and learners throughout all five boroughs. NYCEECs are run by non-profits, community-based organizations, nursery schools, day care centers, private-pay programs or faith-based organizations. Calendar year, salaries, and benefits offered will vary from site to site. Each NYCEEC employs its own teachers; they are not employees of the City of New York. NYCEEC teachers should be NY State early childhood certified teachers OR they must possess a Bachelor's degree, have completed some early childhood education coursework; OR have significant experience working in early childhood education (with children under 6), and commit to obtain a NY State early childhood teacher certification within three years of employment.

**I am not certified to teach. Can I apply for pre-K lead teacher positions?**

You may apply to teach pre-K as a "study plan candidate"\* for the 2017 – 2018 school year once our application re-launches in **April of 2017!** If you will not be certified to teach pre-K by September of 2017, you will need to fill out the application for not yet certified teachers at [www.teachnycprek.org](http://www.teachnycprek.org). You will need to possess a Bachelor's degree, have completed some early childhood education coursework OR have significant experience working in early childhood education (with children under 6), and commit to obtain a NY State early childhood teacher certification within three years of employment.

*You are only eligible to be hired as a pre-K teacher in a NYC Early Education Center (NYCEEC), provided that upon hire you develop a plan that will lead to your NY State Early childhood teaching certification within three years of your hire date.*

Learn more about the certification process [here](#).

**\*What is a "study plan candidate"?**

"Study plan candidates" are not yet certified teachers that are eligible to work in our NYCEECs if they possess a Bachelor's degree, have completed some early childhood education coursework OR have significant experience working in early childhood education (with children under 6), and commit to obtain a NY State early childhood teacher certification within three years of employment. We encourage candidates and NYCEECs to work together to develop an appropriate and individualized plan.

**I am not certified to teach at the pre-K level, but I am certified to teach at another level. Can I apply for pre-K positions?**

You are welcome to apply to teach pre-K for the 2017 – 2018 school year! If you will not have a NY State early childhood teacher certificate by September 2017, you are eligible to be hired as a pre-K teacher in a NYCEEC (not a district school). You will need to fill out the online application for not yet certified teachers as “a study plan candidate” at [www.teachnycprek.org](http://www.teachnycprek.org). You will need to possess a Bachelor’s degree, at least 6 credit hours in early childhood education OR at least 6 months of experience working in a school-based setting with children under the age of 6, and commit to obtain a NY State Early childhood teacher certification within three years of employment.

**If I am certified to teach grades 1 – 6, what are my next steps for earning a B – 2 extension?**

If your current certification is in NY State childhood education (grades 1-6), you are eligible to work towards your B-2 extension. More information is available on the [NYSED website](#).

**I am certified to teach in another state. Should I apply as a certified or not yet certified teacher?**

You should refer to the [NYC Department of Education’s webpage on interstate reciprocity](#) to determine your next steps in becoming certified to teach in NY State.

If you possess an out of state teaching certificate that is approved for interstate reciprocity, you should follow the steps to apply for certification through NYSED and also apply as a certified candidate to teach pre-K. See a [list of Acceptable Certificates from States other than New York](#).

If your out of state certificate is not granted reciprocity, you are still welcome to apply to teach pre-K through our not yet certified, “study plan” application at [www.teachnycprek.org](http://www.teachnycprek.org). You are eligible to be hired as a pre-K teacher in a NYCEEC, provided that upon hire you develop a plan that will lead to your NY State Early childhood teaching certification within three years.

**I am certified or obtained my degree in another country. What are my next steps?**

Please go to the [NY State Higher Education website](#) to learn more about documents and eligibility requirements to teach in New York with a non-US degree. You may also have to go through the process to have your international credits evaluated by the [World Education Services](#).

You may be eligible to be a “study plan” teacher candidate in a NYC Early Education Center (NYCEEC). More information on being a study plan candidate is available above.

**What are the qualifications to be an Assistant Teacher?**

You are eligible to be hired as an assistant teacher in a pre-K classroom in a NYC Early Education Center (NYCEEC) if you are at least eighteen years old, have a high school diploma or equivalent (GED), and hold a valid Level 1 or higher NY State Teaching Assistant certification. More information on how to obtain this certificate may be found at the [NY State Education Department’s Teaching Assistant website](#).



For district Assistant Teacher (paraprofessional) positions, please visit the [Paraprofessionals Careers website](#).