

Office of Teaching Initiatives

- [Educator Resources](#)
- [Certification](#)
- [Fingerprinting](#)
- [TEACH System](#)
- [Topics A-Z](#)
- [Certificate Holder Lookup](#)

Certification

- [Certification from Start to Finish](#)
- [Becoming Certified - What's My Next Step?](#)
- [Pathways to Certification](#)
- [Types of Certificates and Licenses](#)
- [Special Education Teacher Credential Options](#)
- [Search Certification Requirements](#)
- [Apply for a Certificate](#)
- [Testing](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Report Problems Using the TEACH Online System](#)

[NYSED](#) / [Higher Ed](#) / [OTI](#) / [Certification](#) / [COVID-19](#)

Emergency COVID-19 Certificate

Candidates who are seeking certain certificates and extensions may be eligible for the Emergency COVID-19 certificate, allowing them to work in New York State public schools or districts for one year while taking and passing the required exam(s) for the certificate or extension sought.

The Emergency COVID-19 certificate and Emergency COVID-19 extension applications are now available in TEACH. The best browser to use with TEACH is Chrome.

- **Certificates and Extensions.** The Emergency COVID-19 certificate is available for candidates who are seeking one of the following certificates or extensions that require exam(s): Bilingual Education extension, Gifted Education extension, Initial or Professional certificate in the classroom teaching service, Initial or Professional certificate in the educational leadership service (School Building Leader, School District Leader, School District Business Leader), Initial Reissuance, Teaching Assistant certificate, School Administrator and Supervisor (SAS) Provisional Renewal, Subject in Grades 7-9 extension, Subject in Grades 5-9 or 7-12 for Students with Disabilities extension, Supplementary certificate, Transitional A certificate through the Option B pathway, Transitional B certificate, Transitional C certificate, or Transitional D certificate.
- **Deadline for Applications.** Candidates must apply for the certificate or extension sought on or before September 1, 2020 (e.g., Initial Childhood Education certificate). They must **also** apply for the Emergency COVID-19 certificate, in the same certificate title as the certificate or extension sought (e.g., Childhood Education), on or before September 1, 2020.
- **Application Fees.** There is no fee to apply for the Emergency COVID-19 certificate. Candidates would pay the application fee for the certificate or extension sought.
- **Certificate Requirements.** Candidates must have completed all requirements for the certificate or extension sought, other than the exam requirement(s), on or before September 1, 2020. Examination requirements include the edTPA, the Praxis II Speech-Language Pathology test, and those listed on the [NYSTCE website](#), but do not include course equivalency exams that would fulfill coursework requirements (e.g., CLEP exams). The certification requirements are also available on the [Search Certification Requirements webpage](#). Please note that certification requirements include workshop and fingerprinting requirements.
- **Validity Period.** The Emergency COVID-19 certificate is valid for one year.

- **Renewal.** If candidates have not earned passing score(s) on the required certification exam(s) prior to the expiration date of the Emergency COVID-19 certificate, they can apply for a one-time, one-year extension of the certificate that extends the first Emergency COVID-19 certificate expiration date by one year. For renewal, candidates must receive a recommendation for the renewal from a principal and the superintendent in the New York State school district in which the candidate is employed, or a recommendation for the renewal from the BOCES District Superintendent in the BOCES in which the candidate is employed.
- **Certificate or Extension Issuance.** When candidates take and pass exams, the passing scores are posted in TEACH and the exam requirements are automatically marked as "Met" on the application of the certificate or extension sought. For candidates who hold an Emergency COVID-19 certificate in the same certificate title, the certificate or extension sought will automatically issue in TEACH when all exam requirement(s) are met.
- **Eligible Candidates.** Examples of candidates who may be eligible for the Emergency COVID-19 certificate include, but are not limited to, those who:
 - Complete or completed a New York State registered teacher or educational leadership preparation program leading to Initial or Professional certification, or a registered extension program, prior to the Fall 2020 term, including traditional programs and Transitional B, C, and D programs;
 - Graduate or graduated from an acceptable out-of-state teacher or educational leadership preparation program and have less than three years of acceptable experience in another state prior to the Fall 2020 term (e.g., not eligible for the "[Endorsement of a Certificate](#)" pathway);
 - Are seeking Initial or Professional teacher certification through the "Individual Evaluation" pathway;
 - Are seeking a Teaching Assistant certificate and have not passed the Assessment of Teaching Assistant Skills (ATAS);
 - Are seeking a Transitional A certificate through the Option B pathway, or a Transitional B, C, or D certificate;
 - Held an Initial teacher or school building leader certificate, have less than three years of experience, and are seeking an Initial Reissuance;
 - Hold or held a Transitional G certificate, or have acceptable postsecondary teaching experience, and are seeking an Initial or Professional teacher certificate; and
 - Hold a valid New York State teacher certificate and are seeking an additional Initial or Professional teacher certificate, Supplementary certificate, or certain extensions.

* The Emergency COVID-19 certificate is not available for candidates who are seeking the following career and technical education (CTE) certificates because these certificates do not require a [NYSTCE](#) exam: Initial CTE certificates, Professional CTE Certificate through the "CTE Certificate Progression - Initial/Transitional A Issued Prior to 5/9/2017" pathway, and Professional CTE certificate through the "CTE Program Certificate Progression - Initial/Transitional A Issued Prior to 5/9/2017" pathway.

Last Updated: May 31, 2020

[Contact OTI](#) | [Related Links](#) | [Frequently Asked Questions](#) | [Office of Higher Education](#)