

MD Teacher Licensure - Frequently Asked Questions

Who must hold a teaching license in Maryland?

Every teacher, specialist, administrator, and supervisor must hold a valid MD educator license to be employed in a public school system in Maryland. All initial licenses and renewals are issued with the effective date of either January 1 or July 1.

What are the types of licenses, what is the validity period for each and is there a limit to the number of each type of license an educator might have?

TYPE OF LICENSE	VALIDITY PERIOD	RENEWABLE
Conditional	5 years	No
Conditional Special Education	3 years	No
Temporary Professional	2 years	No
Initial Professional	5 years	Yes
Professional	5 years	Yes
Advanced Professional	5 years	Yes

	<table><tr><td>Montessori Professional</td><td>Indefinite</td><td>NA</td></tr></table> For more detailed information, see the MSDE License Chart.	Montessori Professional	Indefinite	NA
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What is the TEACH Portal and how do I access my account?	The TEACH Portal is the The Educator Application and Credentialing Hub, where MSDE manages Maryland Educator Credentials including initial licenses, renewals, reinstatements, adding additional endorsements, and name changes. Educators may only have ONE application in progress at a time. The TEACH Applicant Guide provides clear guidance on navigating the system.			
What is the difference between renewal and advancement of my license?	Educators may choose to continuously renew a professional license <u>or</u> advance to the next tier of licensure. Advancement is not required in Maryland. The following professional licenses may be renewed: • Initial Professional License (IPL) • Professional License (PL) • Advanced Professional License (APL) To apply for the advancement of your license, submit a Renewal/Advancement application on your TEACH Dashboard. Be prepared to submit documentation demonstrating that you meet the eligibility requirements for the advanced license.			

What are the requirements to renew my license?	To renew a professional license, you must submit a minimum of 90 Professional Development Points (PDPs) acquired within the license validity period, which includes at least one professional development point in each of the following four areas: • Content or pedagogy that is related to an area on your license • English as a Second Language, Sheltered English, or Bilingual Education • Strategies for teaching students with disabilities or differentiated instruction • Culturally Responsive Teaching or diverse student identities in education
What endorsement areas have additional renewal requirements?	Blind/Visually Impaired- a minimum of 15 PDPs in braille maintenance School Counselor- one semester hour of coursework, MSDE-approved Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credit, or an equivalent number of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) that address all of the following: • Depression • Trauma • Violence • Youth suicide • Substance abuse • The identification of professional resources and best practices for distributing resources to parents or guardians to help students in crisis. MSDE publishes a list of courses that meet the additional requirements for school counselors. Educators are not limited to the courses listed on the website to fulfill the requirement.

	Administrator I/II- educators employed in a Maryland local school district, Maryland-operated school, or nonpublic special education program who hold the Administrator I or Administrator II area and are assigned to an administrator or supervisor position must complete professional learning that addresses: • Strategies for increasing teacher retention • Strategies for developing and facilitating teacher leadership Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, Generic Special Education (all grade bands), and ESOL- educators employed in a Maryland local school district, Maryland-operated school, or nonpublic special education program in a position that requires a license in one of these areas must demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and practices of scientific reading instruction at the time of renewal by presenting one of the following: • A passing score on the Praxis Teaching Reading: Elementary assessment*; or • Completion of coursework or professional learning approved by the MSDE.
What are the requirements to advance my license?	To apply for the advancement of your license, submit a Renewal/Advancement application on your TEACH Dashboard. Be prepared to submit documentation demonstrating that you meet the eligibility requirements for the advanced license.

Who is responsible for renewing my license?	You are responsible for knowing the validity period of your current license and all renewal requirements. Document the 90 Professional Development Points as you earn them using the Individualized Professional Development Plan (IPDP). For additional information on the process of earning and recording PDPs please refer to the FCPS Professional Development Point Menu. The Professional Learning Team has developed additional resources to support educators in meeting the license renewal requirements.
Is there a fee to renew my license? How do I pay for it?	MSDE charges a \$10 processing fee for most transactions. Payments can be made directly to MSDE via the TEACH dashboard.
How may I add an additional endorsement area to my educator license?	To apply for an endorsement, please submit an online endorsement application through The Educator Application and Credentialing Hub (TEACH). Select “Add a New Endorsement Area to an Existing License.” Visit the MSDE website to review the requirements for various endorsement areas. If you have not met all requirements to add the requested endorsement, you may submit the application, and our team will

	provide an evaluation indicating the coursework and/or assessments needed to obtain the endorsement.
What are the possible Areas of Licensure?	Please see the table of license areas. If you would like an evaluation of your coursework for any of these license areas, please submit the endorsement application.
How and when do I get my actual license?	You can print your license from the TEACH Portal whenever you wish. Licenses cannot be printed until the date they are issued. To do so, access your account in the TEACH Portal. You need to set up an account the first time you access the site. After that, you simply need your username and the password you created on the site when you registered. On your TEACH dashboard, click to expand the Credential bar, you can preview and download your license to print.
What is the Senior Teacher Waiver and how do I know if I am eligible for it?	According to COMAR 13A.12.01.14B.(1)(2), a teacher who has 25 years of experience in public education or is 55 years of age may request the Senior Teacher Waiver for license renewal. Once the waiver is applied, the educator no longer requires PDPs to renew their license as long as they remain employed with Frederick County Public Schools. School Counselors that acquire Senior Teacher Waiver Status are still required to

	complete one Lauryn's Law credit each renewal cycle. To request a review of your credentials to confirm eligibility for Senior Teacher Waiver, please complete the Senior Teacher Waiver Eligibility Form. You will receive a follow-up email regarding your status once the review is complete.
Where can I learn more about state-wide licensure requirements?	Please visit the Maryland State Department of Education's Licensure FAQ page.

Can't find the answer to your question on this page, or have a follow up question?

Questions specific to individual licensure requirements, please contact certification@fcps.org

Questions about professional learning and educator licensure, please email
professional.learning@fcps.org