

HOW TO ACHIEVE “HIGHLY QUALIFIED” TEACHER STATUS IN MARYLAND

All teachers teaching in any core academic subject area¹ (including early childhood and elementary)

- Hold at least a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education (IHE);
- Hold a valid Standard Professional Certificate or Advanced Professional Certificate or Resident Teacher Certificate; AND,
- SATISFY THE APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS LISTED BELOW:

NEW² early childhood/elementary teachers

Demonstrate content knowledge and pedagogy competency by passing state tests assessing subject knowledge and teaching skills in reading, writing, math, and other areas of basic early childhood or elementary (as applicable) school curriculum.

NEW² middle, secondary, and PreK-12 teachers (Art, Music, Dance & Theatre)

Demonstrate high level of competency in each of the core academic subjects in which the teacher teaches by –

1. passing the applicable state content test in each of the core academic subjects in which the teacher teaches; OR
2. completing an academic major, coursework equivalent to an academic major³, a graduate degree, or advanced certification⁴, in each of the core academic subjects in which the teacher teaches.

Early childhood/Elementary, middle, secondary teachers, or PreK-12 teachers (Art, Music, Dance & Theatre) NOT NEW to the profession

- Meet the applicable standards listed for teachers NEW to the profession, OR
- Demonstrate competency in each of the core academic subjects in which the teacher teaches based on a High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE)

¹Core Academic subjects include English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts (art, dance, music, & theatre), history, and geography. Special Education and English for Speakers of Other Languages are not core academic subject areas; however, special education and ESOL teachers must be highly qualified in every CAS for which they plan and implement instruction and assess student performance.

²New teacher means a teacher without at least one year of verifiable teaching experience.

³Coursework equivalent to an academic major means 30 credit hours from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

⁴Advanced certification means certification issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.