



PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS BOARD

2001 Capitol Ave.
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Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

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TO: 04- Joint Education Interim Committee
FROM: Brendan O'Connor, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Teacher Certification

Background

The Professional Teaching Standards Board (PTSB) was established as an autonomous agency by the Wyoming Legislature in 1993, but a form of the Board has existed since 1968. Professional standards boards' policy decision-making relies primarily on the direct involvement of active professional educators. Just like other professional boards that promote, oversee, and administer their professions.

The mission of the Professional Teaching Standards Board is to ensure that every student is served by competent, ethical educators who meet rigorous performance standards.

There are thirteen (13) Board members, six appointed by the Governor, six appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and a dean of a post-secondary educator preparation program within Wyoming. Board members represent elementary and secondary teachers, elementary and secondary principals, school district administrators, related services providers, community college faculty, and school boards.

The Board has the responsibility to promulgate rules and regulations for the certification of school administrators, teachers, and other personnel. In addition the Board has authority to discipline certificate holders for incompetency, immorality, reprehensible conduct, or gross neglect of duty while following well-established due process procedures to ensure the educator's rights are protected. The Board also reviews and provides program approval decisions for the various educator preparation programs at the University of Wyoming and community colleges.

Options for Licensure

Traditional Route - completion of an educator preparation program (EPP) from an accredited college/university that leads to a licensure as an educator. In Wyoming this is a Standard Educator License valid for five (5) years.

An Institutional Recommendation from the EPP attests that the individual has met all licensure requirements for the state the institution is located. Typically these are undergraduate or graduate degree programs. The University of Wyoming is the primary EPP in Wyoming. Central Wyoming College has a Bachelor of Applied Science degree program leading to licensure in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education.

Alternative Route to License - Wyoming does not have a state-approved alternative route to licensing program. PTSB does recognize some alternative route programs from other states; however, each program must be evaluated to determine if it is substantially equivalent to the Wyoming program approval standards and processes. At a minimum, an out-of-state alternative route program must be coordinated with an accredited institution of higher education, be state-approved in the state where the institution is physically located, and include a student teaching component. These may be degree programs, but are often not degree-granting programs.



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Professional, Industry, Career (PIC) Permit - PTSB has offered the PIC permit for decades, primarily intended for Career Technical Education (CTE) subject areas that many educator preparation programs do not provide. PTSB requires at least 2 years of verified industry experience, and a current license in the industry (if applicable) to be eligible for the PIC permit. The PIC permit is valid for five (5) years.

Over the past few years, the Board has expanded the allowance of the PIC permit to cover other professionals interested in teaching in the K-12 system – college professors, for example, who do not need to be licensed to teach in higher education settings, but who would be otherwise ineligible to teach in a K-12 school. Doctors, veterinarians, lawyers, and corrections officers have earned PIC permits to teach in Wyoming.

PTSB has also developed a pathway for PIC permit holders to become eligible for a Standard Educator license. This pathway includes a sequence of foundational education courses that provides PIC permit holders a similar educational background as those who completed a traditional educator preparation program. By transitioning to a Standard License these educators are then eligible to add other content area endorsements, or pursue administrator endorsements.

Consultant Specialist Permit - This permit is issued by District Request only for individuals the district considers “highly and uniquely qualified for the educational position” they will be hired to teach. These individuals have not completed a preparation program, and may not be eligible for a PIC Permit, but the district outlines how they will supervise and mentor these individuals to be successful. Individuals who do not already hold at least a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution of higher education must be working towards earning a degree. This permit is valid for one year, and can be re-applied for annually without limit.

Exception Authorizations (EA) - This is PTSB’s version of what other states consider a provisional license. It allows individuals to work as teachers while completing coursework, testing requirements, or training. Educators on an EA are supervised by licensed and fully endorsed educators assigned by the school districts. Most are valid for one year, and some can be renewed twice (3 years total) to allow for completion of college/university programs.

PTSB has six options of Exception Authorizations:

- EA Option #1 - Applicants who meet all requirements for a Wyoming Standard Educator License except submission of the required passing test score for Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, and Social Studies Comprehensive.
- EA Option #2 - For program completion to add an endorsement. This is the most common EA granted.
- EA Option #3 - For Administrator, School Counselor, School Social Worker, or other related service personnel who do not hold full licensure in the area.
- EA Option #4 - By District Request only for currently certified educators who are assigned to teach outside of their endorsement area (not for Elementary Education or Special Education). Requires passing the appropriate Praxis subject-area test.



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- EA Option #5 - For educators hired as a Dual Language Immersion teacher who do not hold full licensure in the endorsement area.
- EA Option #7 - For applicants who are enrolled in or who have completed an accredited alternative route program not associated with an institution of higher education, who holds a bachelor's degree, and has passed subject area and pedagogy examinations.

Reciprocity and Monitoring the Profession

PTSB is a member of the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC), a professional membership organization representing all states' and territories' departments of education and professional standards boards that are responsible for the preparation, licensure, and discipline of K-12 educational personnel. PTSB abides by the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement, an agreement amongst member states to facilitate the mobility of educators among the states. Typically this is done by accepting the other state's license, and receiving an Institutional Recommendation from the educator preparation program attesting that the individual met all licensure requirements for that state. Additionally, PTSB requires applicants to pass a Wyoming Constitution test to meet statutory requirements.

NASDTEC hosts the Educator Identification Clearinghouse to facilitate the mobility of certified/licensed educators while protecting students from educators who have been found unfit to practice. The Clearinghouse provides a mechanism for licensing agencies to share names of educators whose certificates, licenses, or similar credentials that have been denied, revoked, suspended, surrendered or otherwise adversely acted upon. These actions do not need to meet the level of illegality, but capture misconduct that is inappropriate with children.

Data

The following all are Active and Valid certificate types as of May 7, 2025.



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<i>Certification Type</i>	COUNTUNIQUE of PTSB ID
Standard License	13335
Substitute Permit	7912
Head Coach Permit	980
Transitional Coaching Permit	464
Exception Authorization Option #2	375
Professional, Industry, Career (PIC) Permit	284
Professional (10 year) (License)	119
Consultant Specialist Permit	118
Internship Permit	94
Exception Authorization Option #4	84
Exception Authorization Option #5	30
Driver Education Permit	28
Educational Sign Language Interpreter Permit	24
Native Language Permit	21
Exception Authorization Option #3	14
School Nurse Permit	8
Professional Education Specialist (10 year) License	5
Exception Authorization Option #1 Praxis Elementary Education	5
Exception Authorization Option #7	3
Military Allowance Certificate	2
Visiting Foreign Teacher Permit	1
PIC Coach Permit	1
Exception Authorization Option #1 Praxis Social Studies Composite	1
Education Specialist (License)	1
Grand Total	22044