

RESA 8

Alternative Certification

General Information



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- ▶ **Alternative certification (AC)**
 - ▶ Is a WV state approved program for obtaining teacher certification
 - ▶ Is available for teachers in “critical needs” areas
 - ▶ Is available for both general education and special education teachers
 - ▶ Allows for “on the job” training while in the program
 - ▶ Leads to WV professional teacher certification

AC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Must be a US Citizen
2. Must be at least 18 years of age (by Oct 1)
3. Must be of good moral character and physically, emotionally and mentally qualified to perform the duties of a teacher
4. Must have official transcripts showing a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education with a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA
5. Must have evidence of official passing scores on required PRAXIS Exams
 - ▶ PRAXIS CORE basic skills test or meet an allowable exemption (see the next slide for possible exemptions)
 - ▶ PRAXIS Subject area exam required by the WVDE for the content area you are hired to teach (except for Special Education)
6. Must have a formal offer of employment by a county as a classroom teacher after applying for a position in a critical needs area that you have passed the PRAXIS test for (except for Special Education)

*PRAXIS CORE Test Exemptions

Persons who can document that they meet **one or more** of the following criteria may be exempt from the Praxis® Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core).

- hold certification through the NBPTS
- hold or have held a West Virginia Professional Certificate
- hold a master's degree from an accredited institution of higher education
- attained, from a single administration, a composite score of 25 on the American College Test (ACT®), 26 on the ACT enhanced (effective November 1989), 1035 on the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT®), 1125 on the re-centered SAT (effective April 1995), or 1170 on the revised SAT using the combined Critical Reading and Math score (effective March 2005)
- hold a valid out-of-state certificate in the content area
- successfully completed three years of experience within the last seven years in one or a combination of specializations recognized on an out-of-state professional certificate valid during those three years

If you wish to take all three computer-delivered Core exams (5712, 5722, 5732) at the same time, select Core Academic Skills for Educators: Combined Test (5751) when registering. Scores will be reported by individual test (5712, 5722, 5732).

Am I Ready for Consideration?

BEFORE YOU CAN BE CONSIDERED

All candidates must meet **all** of the following requirements to be eligible for consideration in the Alternative Certification program:

- ▶ You hold a Bachelor's Degree with a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA as shown on an official transcript from an accredited college or university.
- ▶ You have earned and can show evidence of meeting the WV passing score requirement on the PRAXIS CORE Test or you meet an exemption.
- ▶ You have earned and can show evidence of meeting the WV passing score requirement on the PRAXIS Content Test for the critical needs area you want to teach in. (This is true for all areas except for Special Education.)
- ▶ You have applied for an open position and received a formal offer of employment in the critical needs area you have passed the PRAXIS Content test for. (This is true for all areas except for Special Education.)
- ▶ You have obtained the recommendation of the hiring county to be considered for the Alternative Certification program.
- ▶ You have attended the RESA 8 Orientation Session.
- ▶ You have made a formal commitment to enroll in the Alternative Certification program.

Participant's Commitment

ONCE YOUR COUNTY ACCEPTS YOU INTO THE PROGRAM

Once a commitment is made to join the Alternative Certification program, all participants must:

- ▶ Apply for initial alternative certification with the WVDE through your county (Form 25) and maintain your certification throughout the length of the program
- ▶ Attend the RESA 8 two-day Induction Program (unless exempt)
- ▶ Receive regular teacher pay and benefits from your county
- ▶ Spend about a year completing the online iTeach course modules while on the job
- ▶ Spend another 1-2 years demonstrating mastery and application of pedagogy and course content while being supervised and mentored on the job
- ▶ Maintain eligibility for the Alternative Certification program by making adequate progress and receiving satisfactory evaluations and the recommendation of your county to continue
- ▶ Pass the [PRAXIS PLT \(Principles of Learning & Teaching\) Exam](#) for your grade level
- ▶ Pass the [PRAXIS Content Exam for Special Education](#) (if this is your program of study)
- ▶ Apply for and obtain WV Professional Teaching certification at the completion of the program.

What is the Platform?

- ▶ iTeach provides online modules that teach pedagogy.
- ▶ Participants proceed through the modules (self-paced) and show mastery of content through assessments.
- ▶ Mastery of content is required to move on to the next course
- ▶ Assessment of mastery is often shown through your ability to express what you know through writing
- ▶ Assessments are evaluated by trained educators.
- ▶ Time needed to complete a course may vary by participant; some courses require a minimum of 28 days to complete.
- ▶ Courses are designed for general education and special education instruction. Sample classes are:
 - ▶ EDTC 5300 “Planning Instruction and Assessment”
 - ▶ EDTC 5500 “Literacy Across the Curriculum”
 - ▶ EDTC 6600 “Special Education Strategies”

ANTICIPATED EXPENSES

- ▶ Estimated costs for the Alternative Certification program and the necessary certification applications range from \$3200 – \$3800 (See your county HR Director for more information on how these fees are paid.)
- ▶ Additional costs for testing will vary based upon the exams needed for your area(s) of certification. Tests are usually computerized and administered at [testing sites](#).
 - ▶ [PRAXIS CORE](#) = \$150 for combined test or \$90 each (x 3) unless you qualify for an exemption.
 - ▶ [PRAXIS Content Tests](#) = vary by test (\$60-\$146 each)
 - ▶ [PRAXIS PLT](#) = \$146

QUESTIONS?

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