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# SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The Residency Teacher certificate is the first level of teacher certification in Washington State. It is issued to those who meet all requirements for certification, including completion of a state approved teacher preparation program, a background/fingerprint check and teacher testing, which involves basic skills testing and endorsement content knowledge (Praxis II) testing in each endorsement area.

The Residency Teacher certificate is valid for a period of five years past completion of provisional status employment. For most teachers this will be a seven year period.

During the first two years of employment a teacher is considered to be in provisional status employment, and after successful completion of those two years a teacher enters an employment status that confers continuing contract rights.

When first issued, the Residency certificate is entitled: Residency Teacher (Provisional Status). It is issued without an expiration date because the state cannot predict with certainty when the teacher will begin fully contracted employment. Although the status of the teacher's certification continues beyond provisional status, our procedure is to require that this first-issue certificate (containing no expiration date) be reissued (at no cost) so that the reissued certificate has a five year expiration date.

There is no difference in the validity or level of certification between the Residency Teacher (Provisional Status) and the Residency Teacher certificate that has an expiration date. The Residency Teacher (Provisional Status) certificate constitutes full state certification, just as the Residency Teacher denotes full state certification.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard J. Maloney  
Associate Director, Professional Education and Certification  
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction