**Certification Updates & Changes from the Legislature and Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB)**

Besides passing a budget in late July this year, the legislature also passed E2SHB 1341 which has made changes to certification renewal and advancement options for teachers. Some of the major highlights include:

* Teachers are eligible for a five-year residency certificate when they have accumulated 1.5 FTE of successful experience over at least two years.
* Residency, professional, and continuing certificate holders, in the roles of teacher, administrator, and ESA, now all have the same **options** **to renew their certificates**:
  + **100 clock hours or the equivalent in college credit**
  + **Or, by completing four annual PGPs during the five-year validity date of the certificate**
  + **Or, by combining completed PGPs with clock hours for a total of 100 hours** (e.g. 3 PGPs + 25 CH = 100 CH)
  + Or, for professional or continuing certificates for teachers or counselors, by possession of a valid certificate issued by National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; or for school psychologists, by the National Association of School Psychologists; or for SLPs, by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).
* **Professional certification is now optional** for teachers and administrators. (Last spring PESB also made it optional for school counselors.)

**See further details** at the PESB webpage FAQ on new credentialing policy at: http://www.pesb.wa.gov/media/announcements/changesbringcoherencetocertificationsystem

PESB changes or elaborations this past year include:

* Beginning on September 1, 2019, renewal applications for residency, professional, and continuing teacher and CTE certificates for the following endorsements must document completion of at least 15 clock hours, or at least one goal from an annual professional growth plan (PGP), with an emphasis on STEM integration to meet this renewal requirement.  STEM integration is the authentic combination of at least two of the STEM components (science, technology, engineering, mathematics).
* Elementary Education (K-8) endorsement
* Early Childhood Education (P-3) endorsement
* Designated Sciences (5-12): Biology, Chemistry, Earth & Space Science, Physics
* Mathematics (5-12)
* Middle Level Math (4-9)
* Middle Level Science (4-9)
* Science (5-12)
* Technology Education
* CTE Teachers
* **Streamlining the processes to add endorsements to teaching certificates**. The Pathway 1, 2, 3 processes have gone away and been replaced by Test Only, Program and Test, NBPTS and the Migration options.

This means **most endorsements can be added to a current certificate by only passing the approved WEST-E/NES test or an alternative approved by PESB for the desired endorsement including:**

* Biology
* Chemistry
* Choral Music
* Computer Science
* Dance
* Earth & Space Science
* English Language Arts
* General Music
* Health/Fitness
* History
* Instrumental Music
* Mathematics
* Middle Level Humanities
* Middle Level Mathematics
* Middle Level Science
* Physics
* Science
* Social Studies
* Theatre Arts
* Traffic Safety
* Visual Arts
* Designated World Languages

\*\*Individuals who hold ELL or Bilingual may add the other endorsement via testing only.

Teachers should go to [www.west.nesinc.com](http://www.west.nesinc.com) to test and do an added endorsement application through the eCert system at: <https://eds.ospi.k12.wa.us>

Endorsements which require Program participation and testing are:

* Elementary Education
* Special Education
* Early Childhood Education
* Early Childhood Special Education
* Reading
* English Language Learner
* Bilingual
* Agriculture
* Business & Marketing
* Family Consumer Sciences
* Technology Education
* Library Media

For more details please visit the OSPI Certification website at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/certification/Teacher/Endorsement.aspx>

**Current educators can also apply for retooling scholarships to add endorsements in shortage areas** with deadlines coming up 1/12/18 and 4/27/18. See the PESB website for details at: http://pathway.pesb.wa.gov/current-educators/educator-retooling