

Residency Teacher Certificate Validity – September 1, 2011

All candidates who have not had a residency reissued with a defined expiration date under the current calculation will move to one validity date system effective September 1, 2011.

This newsletter contains important information, rules, Q & A's and a description of the process that will be used to implement these changes.

Background:

The Professional Educator Standards Board has adopted changes to the Washington Administrative Code that changes the validity and renewal of a residency teacher certificate on September 1, 2011.

WAC 181-79A-251 revises the validity and renewal system for residency teacher certificates as of September 1, 2011. While the rules have been adopted and become effective in September, this newsletter will help to clarify both the validity system for those issued a residency certificate after September 2011 and those already issued a residency teacher certificate without expiration date and the renewal(s) available for all residency teacher certificate holders.

While this newsletter will not cover all situations, we hope it will allow individuals, schools districts, college/university and educational service district certification officers to answer questions and provide information to individuals who will be affected by these changes.



Contents

Individual Highlights

Background	1
Rules/rule language-validity	2
Rules/rule language-renewal	3
Scenarios	4
Q & A's	5



State of Washington

Office of
Superintendent of Public Instruction

OSPI



WAC 181-79A-145

Below is WAC 181-79A-145 that explains residency validity that will be in effect on September 1, 2011. A complete copy of the rules may be obtained from our website under the regulation/reports page here:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/certification/Resources.aspx>

Residency validity – WAC 181-79A-145(2) (c) residency validity:

“ For teachers, after September 1, 2011, a first issue teacher residency certificate remains undated until the teacher is eligible to register for the professional certificate assessment under WAC 181-79A-206, at which time the residency certificate is dated for three years as verified by the certification office of the superintendent of public instruction: Provided, That teachers who hold an undated initial residency certification and teach in nonpublic school settings as defined under chapter 180-55 WAC are considered to hold a valid certificate and may participate in the professional certificate requirements by submitting proof of experience under WAC 181-79A-206.”

Why the change to validity?

Under the current validity system, individuals have seven years before they must be concerned about their residency certificate expiration date. Therefore, their focus on achieving advanced level certification (Professional Teacher Certificate) is often not considered while they go about the day –to– day business of life. The new validity system requires individuals to consider and focus on requirements to obtain advanced certification before many years have elapsed in their career.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Individuals will still receive an undated residency certificate when issued the residency after 9-1-11.
- Individuals will not have a defined expiration date until they have employment.
- Individuals who become employed in a Washington school district will have the validity calculated based on the experience information submitted by the school district on their annual personnel report (S275 report) to OSPI.
- Individuals employed in nonpublic school settings may participate in completing professional teacher certificate requirements and have their certificate reissued with a defined expiration date.
- When a certificate is reissued, it will be valid for three years, rather than the five years calculated now.
- Individuals who currently have a residency certificate with a defined expiration date under current requirements (five years) will not see a change in their expiration date.
- Reissuance of a residency certificates for those employed in a Washington school district being reported on the district’s personnel report will have their residency certificate automatically reissued without having to file paperwork.

WAC 181-79A-251 – Residency Renewal:

Beginning September 1, 2011, individuals who hold, or have held, residency certificates have three options for renewal past the first three-year certificate:

(A) Candidates who have attempted and failed the professional certificate assessment are eligible for a two-year renewal;

(B) Candidates who have not been employed or employed less than full-time as a teacher during the dated, three-year residency certificate may receive a two-year renewal by registering for the professional certificate assessment or may permit their certificate to lapse until such time they register for the professional certificate assessment.

(C) Candidates whose three-year residency certificate has lapsed may receive a two-year renewal by registering for the professional certificate assessment.

(iii) A residency certificate expires after the first renewal if the candidate has taken no action to achieve the professional certificate, provided: When the first two-year renewal on residency certificates expires, teachers have two renewal options:

(A) Teachers who were employed but failed the professional certification assessment, may receive a second two-year renewal;

(B) Teachers who were unemployed or employed less than full-time during the first two-year renewal may permit their certificate to lapse and receive a second two-year renewal by registering for the professional certification assessment.

(iv) An individual who completes a National Board Certification assessment but does not earn National Board Certification may use that completed assessment to renew the residency certificate for two years.

(v) Teachers who hold expired residency certificates may be reinstated by having a district request, under WAC 181-79A-231, a transitional certification not less than five years following the final residency expiration: Provided that the teacher registers and passes the professional certification assessment within two years.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- In the current system, individuals obtain a residency valid for five years after teaching for two years (seven years total) with an option for a two year renewal if employed (nine years total). In the new system, individuals will receive a residency valid for three years after teaching for 2 years and accumulating 1.5 FTE experience (5 years total) with an option for two renewals of two years each (nine years total)
- Individuals will have the option to obtain two renewals of the residency
- Each available renewal is valid for two years
- Individuals who are not employed may wait to obtain renewal until they return to teaching in Washington
- No change has occurred to obtaining a two year renewal based on completion of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification process.
- Individuals who have exhausted available renewals (unable to successfully complete the ProTeach external assessment) can return to teaching after five years from the expiration of their final residency renewal



How has renewal of the residency changed?

Currently, individuals have one renewal of the residency certificate after the defined five year expiration date. After September 1, 2011, individuals will be able to obtain more than one renewal depending upon their employment situation and their unsuccessful attempts to complete the ProTeach external assessment. Individuals who leave teaching who have exhausted renewal of the residency certificate will also have an option to obtain employment and receive a transitional certificate if their residency renewal has been expired for five years.

What if.....

an individual was issued a five- year residency certificate under guidelines in effect between September 1, 2000 and the time we began issuing the first residency without an expiration date and they have not been employed in Washington?

Individuals will still be able to have the expiration date removed from the residency certificate. Once they complete the experience requirement in a Washington school district, the certificate would be reissued as a three year certificate after 9-1-2011.

an individual becomes employed in a Washington school district and is reported with more than 1.5 FTE's of experience on the district personnel report (S-275)?

Individuals who are issued a certificate and then reported with 1.5 or more years of experience will receive a residency certificate valid for three years. Even if the individual has no previous experience in Washington, the certificate for all individuals who are reported with a minimum of 1.5 years of experience will be valid for three years.

an individual has substitute teaching experience? Will that count toward the 1.5 years of experience for residency certificate validity calculation?

Any experience that a Washington school district can use as experience for personnel reporting (S275) will be used to determine the validity requirement for the three year residency certificate.

an individual qualifies to have their residency certificate reissued as a five year residency under rules in effect before September 1, 2011?

*Individuals who are eligible for the five year residency certificate **MUST** complete and submit the reissuance form by August 31, 2011 or they will be subject to the 3 year certificate reissuance.*

an individual is not employed in a Washington school district?

Individuals employed in non-public schools and hold a residency certificate without a defined expiration date will continue to hold the certificate without an expiration date. Those individuals may be subject to residency reissuance and pursuit of the professional certification by policy of their private school employer. Individuals who wish to participate in the ProTeach external assessment must report a minimum of 1.5 FTE's of experience to be eligible for enrollment. When the experience is reported, the residency certificate is subject to reissuance with three years of validity.

How will.....

an individual know their Washington school district has submitted their personnel report (S275) and their residency certificate validity has changed?

At this time our office will be working with our IT folks to have an automated system in which the school district will be notified which of their employees now have a residency certificate valid for three years.

an individual who is employed in a non-public school know their certificate validity has changed?

Individuals who are employed in a non-public school who wish to participate in the ProTeach external assessment must report experience to qualify for enrollment. These individuals will use the reissuance form to report the experience and have their certificate reissued as valid for three years. Our office will mail an updated certificate showing the new expiration date to the individuals.

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Questions & Answers

Q: Won't individual lose time to complete the professional certificate requirements with this new residency validity?

A: No. Individuals currently have up to 9 years after issuance of the residency certificate and employment to complete professional certificate requirements. Individuals will have the option to have up to 9 years under the new validity system to complete the professional certificate requirements.

Q: Why change the calculation of validity if individuals have the potential for the same amount of time?

A: The current system does not require an individual to focus on professional certification requirements until their 7th year of validity on the residency certificate. The new system will require individuals to focus on professional certificate requirements before the 5th year of validity on the residency certificate.

Q: What if an individual does not complete requirements to obtain the professional certificate before running out of renewal options?

A: Individuals who are not able to successfully complete the ProTeach external assessment by the end of their 2nd renewal will no longer be able to hold a regular certificate to cover employment.

Q: What if an individual does not become employed in Washington?

A: Individuals with a residency certificate without a defined expiration date will continue to hold a valid residency certificate that will not expire unless they opt to participate in the ProTeach external assessment based on employment in another state or country. Those who opt to participate must report experience to be eligible and their certificate will be reissued with a defined expiration date three years from the time the experience is reported.

Q: What if an individual enrolls in the external assessment and obtain their 1st renewal of the residency and then does not follow up on submission of all entries for ProTeach assessment?

A: Individuals who do 'nothing' during their first 2- year renewal will not have an option for an additional renewal until they submit all entries and either pass or fail the ProTeach external assessment.

Q: What do individuals have to do to get the first 2- year renewal?

A: Any individual, with or without a valid certificate, must enroll in and pay all fees for the ProTeach external assessment.

Q: What if my residency certificate has expired and I'm not teaching?

A: Individuals should wait to obtain their first renewal until they are in a position to complete the ProTeach external assessment.

Q: What if I'm teaching and my first renewal is about to expire?

A: Individuals who have submitted for the ProTeach external assessment and not been successful are eligible for an additional 2- year renewal. Individuals who have not submitted for the ProTeach external assessment are not eligible for further regular certification