



Oct. 5, 2017

The Legislature made significant changes to certification requirements during the 2017 Third Special Session. The Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) passed emergency rules at their July meeting which made attaining a Professional Certificate optional and created a renewal process for the Residency Certificate. WEA previously sent an email to our members explaining those changes.

In response to a request by WEA, the PESB has now aligned certificate renewal requirements for all certificates. This was done at their recent September meeting. A brief explanation follows with links to additional resources.

### Summary of the September 2017 PESB Rule Changes

The PESB adopted a set of changes allowing for continuity in credentialing requirements across many roles and certificate types. Taken as a whole, this set of changes means that: Residency, professional, and continuing certificate holders, in the roles of teacher, administrator, and some ESAs (school counselors and school psychologists) now **all have the same options** to renew their certificates:

- 100 clock hours or the equivalent in college credit,
- **Or**, by completing four annual professional growth plans (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.

Changes adopted by the board in September include:

- Setting the clock hour renewal requirement for professional and continuing certificates at 100 clock hours rather than 150 clock hours.
- Allowing PGPs as an option in addition to clock hours for renewing residency certificates.
- Allowing clock hours as an option in addition to PGPs for renewing teacher and ESA professional certificates first earned after Sept. 1, 2014, and all administrator professional certificates.
- Professional Growth Plans (PGPs) will be worth the equivalent of 25 clock hours instead of 30 beginning July 1, 2018.
- PGPs for residency, professional, and continuing certificates are now aligned to career level benchmarks.
- NBCTs will be considered to have met the TPEP certificate renewal requirement for professional and continuing certificates, thus do not have to complete the TPEP professional development. *But, beginning on Sept. 1, 2019, renewal applications for professional and continuing teacher, administrator, and CTE certificates must still document completion of at least 15 clock hours, or at least one goal from an annual professional growth plan (PGP), related to the knowledge and competency of the teacher and principal evaluation criteria or system. This is not required for residency certificate renewal.*
- Second tier certification is now optional for school counselors and school psychologists. Educators in these roles are now able instead to choose to renew their residency certificates.

In addition, clarification is provided on when the 100 clock hours or equivalency for certificate renewal must be earned. For lapsed or expired residency or professional certificates, the clock hours or equivalency must be completed in the five years prior to the application for the five-year certificate.

Lastly, please note this important change: applications for renewal of a residency or professional certificate may not be submitted earlier than 12 months prior to the expiration date of the current certificate. You may earn the clock hours or complete the PGPs anytime during the five-year period your certificate is valid.

Review the most recent PESB [Frequently Asked Questions](#), which was updated after the September PESB meeting. It contains information about Residency, Professional, Continuing Certificates for teachers, ESAs and principals.

As always, if you have questions specific to your certificate, contacting the [OSPI Certification Office](#) is the best way to get the correct answer to your individual certificate questions. The number in Olympia is 360-725-6400.