

Do teachers in a charter school have to be certified?

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At the present time, 39 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have enacted charter school laws, so this database contains information only for them. It does not contain any information for the 11 states that have not enacted charter school laws.

Maintenance of this database is a collective effort between ECS and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. Please contact Molly Ryan, 303.299.3614 or mryan@ecs.org with questions or comments about the database.

Do teachers in a charter school have to be certified?

Alaska	Yes
Arizona	No
Arkansas	Yes, unless a waiver is granted in the charter.
California	Yes
Colorado	Yes, unless a waiver is granted in the charter.
Connecticut	At least 50% of a charter school's teachers must have standard certification. Up to 50% of teachers in a charter school may have alternative certification or temporary certification and be working toward standard certification.
Delaware	Yes, with exceptions.
District of Columbia	No
Florida	Yes
Georgia	A charter school may request a waiver from teacher certification rules and regulations.
Hawaii	Yes. All teachers must obtain a license from the Hawaii teacher standards board in such form as the standards board determines.

Idaho	Yes. Although teachers may apply for a waiver or any of the limited certification options as provided by the state board of education.
Illinois	Charter schools may employ non-certified teachers if they have a bachelor's degree, 5 years experience in the area of degree, a passing score on state teacher tests and evidence of professional growth. Mentoring must be provided to uncertified teachers. At least 50% of the individuals employed in instructional positions by a charter school in Chicago established after April 16, 2003, must hold teaching certificates and 75% of the individuals employed in instructional positions by a charter school in Chicago established before April 16, 2003, must hold teaching certificates.
Indiana	Teachers must either be certified or be in the process of obtaining a license to teach through the transition to teaching program. For those teachers in the transition to teaching program, licenses must be obtained within 3 years of beginning to teach at a charter school.
Iowa	Yes
Kansas	Yes
Louisiana	For most types of charter schools, up to 25% of a charter school's teachers may be non-certified if they meet other specific requirements. For low-performing schools that are converted to charter schools as part of the state's accountability system, beginning no later than the 3rd year of operation, teachers in core subjects must be certified and teachers in other subjects may be non-certified if they meet other specific requirements.
Maryland	Yes
Massachusetts	For Horace Mann charter schools, yes. For commonwealth charter schools, no teacher shall be hired who is not certified unless the teacher has successfully passed the state teacher test.
Michigan	Yes. Except as otherwise provided by law; special exemptions are made for a charter school operated by a state college or university that may wish to use collegiate staff to teach charter school students.
Minnesota	Yes
Missouri	Up to 20% of full-time equivalent instructional staff may be filled by non-certified personnel.

Nevada	Up to 30% of instructional staff may be non-licensed personnel. In a vocational charter school, up to 50% of instructional staff may be non-licensed personnel.
New Hampshire	At least 50% of a charter school's teaching staff must be certified or have 3 years of teaching experience.
New Jersey	Yes
New Mexico	Yes
New York	Up to 30% or 5 teachers are permitted to have other credentials, but non-certified teachers must meet specified criteria: uncertified teachers with at least 3 years of elementary, middle or secondary classroom teaching experience; tenured or tenure track college faculty; individuals with 2 years of satisfactory experience through the Teach for America program; and individuals who possess exceptional business, professional, artistic, athletic, or military experience.
North Carolina	Up to 25% of teachers in grades K - 5 and up to 50% of teachers in grades 6 - 12 may be uncertified.
Ohio	Yes. However, a charter school may engage noncertificated persons to teach up to 12 hours per week.
Oklahoma	Yes, unless a waiver is granted in the charter.
Oregon	At least 1/2 of a charter school's teachers must be licensed by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC), and the non-TSPC-licensed staff must be registered by the TSPC.
Pennsylvania	Up to 25% of teachers may be non-certified
Puerto Rico	Yes
Rhode Island	Yes
South Carolina	Up to 10% of teachers in conversion schools and 25% in start-up schools may be non-certified. In either a new or converted charter school, a teacher teaching in the core academic areas of English/language arts, mathematics, science or social studies must be certified in those areas or possess a baccalaureate or graduate degree in the subject he or she is hired to teach.
Tennessee	Yes
Texas	No

Utah	A charter school must employ teachers who are either licensed or would qualify to teach under alternative certification or authorization programs, based on demonstrated competency .
Virginia	Yes
Wisconsin	Yes. However, if a search for licensed teachers is unsuccessful, a special charter school permit is available for persons with a bachelor's degree in their field who take 6 credits of training each year and are supervised by a teacher with a regular license.
Wyoming	Yes

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