

Your Question:

You asked for information on alternative certification for arts educators.

Our Response:

While every state provides some form of alternative certification, these programs vary significantly. An Education Commission of the States policy brief, [Mitigating Teacher Shortages: Alternative Teacher Certification](#), provides an introduction to alternative certification, a summary of research, state examples and policy considerations.

The National Council of Teaching Quality (NCTQ) has produced a [50-state compilation of state alternative route certification policies](#) that includes:

- Available alternative routes.
- Eligible providers.
- Academic requirements for entry.
- Coursework requirements.
- Subject-matter requirements for entry.
- Induction and practice teaching requirements.

Examples

While a review of NCTQ’s 50-state compilation did not reveal any state policies specific to art teachers, Arts Education Partnership reached out to contacts with State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE) to identify examples of other state approaches. Alternative pathways identified include internships, subject matter expertise demonstrated through examination, undergraduate degrees, or industry experience, assistant teaching, or other programmatic experience such as Teach for America. Some states have developed endorsements specifically for arts education that can be added to existing certification.

District Policy	
California	At the district level, Orange County, California offers a Designated Subjects credential for Arts, Media and Entertainment (AME) Career Technical Education (CTE) teachers, which allows professionals to submit 3000 hours of industry experience (or a combined 3000 hours of upper division coursework in the arts, teaching experience in the arts, and industry experience) to obtain a teaching credential for secondary AME CTE programs. These include programs in 4 arts pathways: Performing Arts, Production and Managerial Arts, Design, Visual and Media Arts, and Game Design. The DS credential only allows you to teach in CTE Arts programs and is not for K-5.
State Policy	
Alabama	Alabama offers a Provisional Certificate in a Teaching Field for individuals who hold a BFA or higher in an arts discipline, take four education classes over a three-year period and pass the Praxis exam.
Arkansas	Arkansas has four non-traditional pathways towards educator licensure for all content areas. The Arkansas Professional Pathway to Educator Licensure is a two-year program that requires the applicant to hold a bachelor’s degree, attend training courses and pass state tests. Approved higher education institutions allow individuals to pursue licensure while completing MAT/MED/MTLL programs. The state also recognizes independent programs to provide teachers

	in high need areas. The state also offers a Provisional Professional Teaching License for experienced professionals which leads to teaching licensure. Areas for licensure specific to the arts include K-12 art, dance, drama/speech, instrumental music and vocal music as well as 7-12 drama.
Colorado	The alternative teacher pathway allows districts to hire candidates with specific content knowledge and who hold an undergraduate degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution of higher education and need teacher training based on the Colorado Teacher Quality Standards. Applicants must complete a bachelor’s degree at a regionally accredited college or university, complete a criminal history background check and choose an allowable endorsement area and demonstrate competence through designated pathways for early childhood, elementary or secondary endorsements.
Connecticut	The Office of Higher Education offers an Alternate Route to Teacher Certification (ARC). The weekend program offers subject-based methods classes and training in areas such as standards, classroom management, differentiated instruction, lesson and nit planning and integrating technology into the classroom. Individuals pursuing ARC observe classrooms and work with teachers and evaluators during the program. ARC does not provide certification in the arts.
Delaware	Delaware offers five alternative licensure and certification options, including an Alternative Route to Teacher Certification (ARTC). Individuals must be accepted to an approved program which supports critical needs areas in secondary subject areas and K-12 music and arts. Schools may hire individuals to teach a subject in which they have an appropriate academic degree and are enrolled in ARTC to complete certification while they are teaching.
Indiana	The Indiana Department of Education offers a two-semester Transition to Teaching program designed to prepare individuals with a bachelor degree to teach middle or high school classes. The state has approved 26 programs as well as online and distance learning programs .
Iowa	The University of Northern Iowa, University of Iowa and Iowa State University designed the Regents Alternative Pathway to Iowa Licensure (RAPIL). RAPIL allows the participant to be a salaried teacher in a secondary Iowa school, on a Teacher Intern License, for one year. Upon successful completion of the internship year and all program requirements, the candidate is recommended for the Initial Teaching License.
Florida	Applicants who do not currently meet all requirements for a professional teaching certificate can qualify for a nonrenewable Temporary Certificate by holding a bachelor’s degree and meeting one of the following additional criteria: a passing score on the Florida Subject Area Examination, a valid certificate issued by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence, a major in the content area, or completion of required courses and a 2.5 GPA in the content area. An individual who holds a Temporary Certificate may apply for a five-year renewable Professional Certificate.
Maine	Maine does not offer an alternative path to certification beyond the pathway for traditional teacher endorsement. If an applicant obtains an education degree from an institution outside of Maine or completes a non-education degree from a Maine institution, a transcript analysis may be completed to ensure the applicant has met the state requirements. If the applicant has not completed the required coursework and completes a minimum of 30% of the required courses for a full certificate, the applicant may be granted a conditional certificate which allows the applicant three years to complete the remaining requirements.
Michigan	Educators who complete a Standard Teaching Certificate through an approved Educator Preparation Program may apply for an additional teaching endorsement in Visual Arts Education or Music Education. Individuals who meet minimum criteria and are enrolled in an alternate route preparation program may apply for a non-renewable five year Interim Teaching Certificate

	(ITC), which allows the holder to teach full-time in a Michigan school while enrolled in an alternative preparation program. No endorsements may be added to the ITC.
Minnesota	An applicant who has not completed teacher preparation may apply for a teaching license by submitting an application including a pedagogy, content and core skills portfolio aligned with board-adopted submission guidelines.
New Jersey	New Jersey applicants who have completed a non-education bachelor's degree may apply for a Certificate of Eligibility. Once the certificate is obtained, applicants complete a Certificate Eligibility Preparation program and a Professional Training Program, work with a mentor and are evaluated by the district before applying for standard certification. At the high-school level, certification to teach arts through career and technical education does not require the completion of a bachelor's degree but instead requires documentation of four years of professional experience in a related field, or a two-year degree and two years of documented experience. Arts educators teaching career and technical education must complete the same training, mentorship and evaluation requirements as non-CTE teachers.
New Mexico	Alternative certification is available in all content areas including the arts. To be eligible for alternative teacher licensure, applicants must hold a bachelor's degree plus 30 semester hours in a field of instruction, a master's degree plus 12 graduate semester hours or a doctoral degree in a field of instruction. Applicants must also complete an alternative program through a New Mexico institution, complete an Online Portfolio Advanced Licensure and three to six credit hours in teaching of reading or meet experience requirements.
Oklahoma	Oklahoma offers five Alternative Paths to certification for those with a minimum of a bachelor's degree in any area but did not complete a state-approved teacher education program, as well as four Non-Traditional Paths and an Emergency Certification process. These paths provide opportunities for individuals with non-teaching degrees to teach in Oklahoma accredited schools and include alternative placement, assistant teaching, CareerTech certification, placement for US military, child development associates and Teach for America.
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania offers a teacher intern certification program which is a professional certificate that allows the holder to fill a full-time teaching position while completing requirements. Alternative programs are offered in PK-12 Art and Music in addition to non-arts areas.
Texas	Texas Alternative Certification Programs are available in universities, school districts, education service centers, community colleges, and private entities; individuals may select from a list of approved programs . These programs allow the individual to teach as a paid intern with mentoring or offer an unpaid clinical experience. Upon completion, individuals apply for a probationary certificate prior to receiving a standard certificate. Once teacher obtains an initial certification, then additional certifications can be obtained through content-area exam . Career and technical education certifications can be obtained through work experience specifically for media arts, however the state does not recognize media arts is not considered a fine arts discipline.
Utah	Teacher licensure in Utah is undergoing total revision which will take effect July 1, 2020. The alternative program is no longer accepting applications and will move to an associate licensure.