

Workshop on NYS Certification and NCLB's Highly Qualified Criteria

NYC Center for Charter School Excellence
August 2007



Part I

- Teacher Certification



New York State Certification

Do charter school teachers need to be certified?

- According to NYS Charter School Law, at least 70% of a charter school's **teaching staff** must be certified by the New York State Education Department (SED).
- 30% of the teaching staff or five teachers (whichever is less) may be employed as uncertified teachers if they :
 - Have at least three years of elementary, middle or secondary classroom teaching experience or;
 - Are tenured or tenure track college faculty or;
 - Have two years of teaching experience through Teach for America or;
 - Possess exceptional business, professional, artistic, athletic or military experience

A teacher who is certified in one area but teaching in another is still considered certified and is not part of the uncertified count.



When are NYS certificates issued?

- The SED issues certificates twice a year, on September 1st and February 1st.
- New Memo from SED –

SED issues certificates twice a year but a teacher is considered certified as soon as the certificate issue date appears in the SED's TEACH database.

Example - A teacher who completed all requirements **after** September 1, 2007 and was issued a certificate on the TEACH computer system on October 1, 2007 is qualified to teach as of October 1, 2007 even though the effective date on the face of the certificate would be February 1, 2008.



Common NYS Certificate Types

- Initial → Professional

- Transitional B → Initial/ Professional

- Conditional Initial → Initial
 - “College Letter”

- Internship → Initial



Initial → Professional

- Entry level certificate
- Valid for 5 years
- Leads to Professional Certificate
- An Initial Certificate can be obtained via college recommendation upon completion of an approved teacher preparatory program, passing applicable exams and fingerprint clearance **OR** meeting all requirements via transcript evaluation, exams, two workshops and fingerprint clearance.
- The only pathway for an Initial certificate in Childhood Ed is via college recommendation. However, applicants can still apply for Childhood Ed if they are seeking an “Additional,” Professional or Supplementary certificate, or through reciprocity.



Professional Certificate

- Advanced level certificate
- Requires:
 - Master's degree
 - 3 years of paid, full-time satisfactory teaching
 - Mentored experience (must be verified by superintendent)
This form can be downloaded from TEACH)
 - Requirements satisfied for Initial certificate
 - Must complete 175 hours of Professional Development every 5 years to MAINTAIN this certificate



Mentoring

- The Superintendent Verification of Mentored Experience form may be used for all Initial certificate holders employed in the district as they complete the LEA's planned mentored experience or receive a waiver to this certification requirement in accord with Commissioner's Regulations. It is suggested that one copy of the completed form be retained in the school files and a copy be provided to the certificate holder.
- <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/pdf/otmentoredexp.pdf>



Teachers Certified in Other States Applying for NYS Reciprocity

The conditions for NYS certification for those certified in a state that participates in the Interstate Compact Agreement are either:

- 1. Completion of an approved program of teacher preparation leading to a certificate comparable to a New York State certificate,

OR

- 2. Possession of a valid certificate comparable to a New York State certificate, and three years experience. Often used for candidates who completed alternative programs in other states.



Teachers Certified in Other States

Applying for NYS Reciprocity (cont.)

- The LAST, ATS-W and applicable Content Specialty Test(s) must be met within two years of the effective date of the Conditional Initial certificate.
- Upon completion of the NYS exams, the SED will automatically generate an Initial certificate with the same effective date as the Conditional Initial certificate.
- The teacher is then required to meet the Professional Certificate criteria within the prescribed time frame. The two workshops must be completed as part of the Professional criteria for this category, but it is suggested that they be taken during the same time period as the NYS exams.



How to Apply for a NYS Certificate Based on Reciprocity

- The candidates must apply and pay via the State's on-line TEACH system
- The candidate should select the “reciprocity” pathway for an Initial certificate in TEACH
- Mail ALL original transcripts and a copy of their valid out-of-state certificate to the NYS Ed Dept., Office of Teaching, 89 Washington Avenue, Room 5N-EB, Albany NY 12234



How to Apply for a NYS Certificate Based on Reciprocity (continued)

- If the candidate has not passed the NYS exams, a **Conditional Initial** certificate will be issued
- If the candidate has passed all NYS certification exams and the two workshops, an **Initial** certificate will be issued

States Participating in the Interstate Agreement

(ignore the squares)

- Alabama
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California (recently added again)
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- DODEA
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii (recently added again)
- Idaho
- Indiana
- Kentucky
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee)
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming



Transitional B Certificate

- ❑ Issued to Alternative Certification Candidates
- ❑ Valid for 3 years
- ❑ Requires passing LAST and applicable Content Specialty Test
- ❑ Requires passing ATS-W upon completion of Trans B master's in education program in order for the college/university to apply for an Initial/Professional certificate
- ❑ The NYC Center for Charter School Excellence partners with Teach for America and Pace University in a Trans B program for charter schools



Internship Certificate

- ❑ Must of completed 50% of MA requirements in a college/university participating in the Internship Program
- ❑ Valid for 2 years
- ❑ Must complete all MA requirements, including all certification exams within two years of effective date of Internship Certificate
- ❑ College must apply for Initial/Professional Certificate



What is a College Letter?

- ❑ Sometimes a college does not immediately apply to the SED for a teacher's certification, although the teacher has completed all requirements through a college-approved program.
- ❑ A teacher should obtain a letter from his/her college stating that s/he met all requirements, including exams and that the college has applied for certification on this individual's behalf
- ❑ The teacher must follow up with the college and follow the instructions for submitting information to TEACH
- ❑ A college letter is like a place-holder for certification, but it is not a certificate.



Additional Certificates

- A teacher with a valid NYS base certificate can apply for an additional certificate more easily
- The general requirements for an additional certificate are:
 - Meeting Content Core requirements in the new certificate area
 - Passing score on the Content Specialty Test in this new area
 - Completion of additional pedagogical coursework, depending on the certificates already held



Supplementary Certificate

- ❑ Can be issued to a certified teacher to teach in a shortage area
- ❑ Candidates must be nominated by their school leader
- ❑ Candidates must have 12 credits in the supplementary area (except for supplementary cert in Students with Disabilities which requires 9 credits)
- ❑ Candidates must have passed Content Specialty Test in the supplementary area (and other exams if applicable)
- ❑ Valid for 3 years while completing the remainder of the requirements for an “additional” certificate in the new subject area
- ❑ Caryl Cohen is the liaison to the SED for review and submission of a supplementary certificate



Pathways to Obtain Certification

- There are several pathways to obtain NYS certification
 - College Recommendation
 - Transcript Evaluation
 - Additional Certificate
 - Interstate Reciprocity
 - National Board Certification



Pupil Personnel Services

- Guidance Counselors, School Psychologists, School Social Workers
- Entry level certificate : Provisional which is valid for five years
- Advanced level certificate: Permanent which does not expire

University of the
Education



State of New York
Department

PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER CERTIFICATE

This certificate, valid for service in the public schools, is granted to the person named below who has satisfied the requirements prescribed by the State Education Department.

Certification Area: **Students With Disabilities (Grades 1-6)**

Form: **INITIAL**

Certificate Number: **1924910**

Effective Date: **09/01/2006**

Control Number: **62924061**

Johanna Duncan Portier
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Higher Education and Office of Professions

Given under the authority of
the State Education Department

Richard P. Mills
Commissioner of Education



Information on TEACH

- ❑ **Individuals may:**
- ❑ Apply for a certificate/check the status of their application
- ❑ View/update their individual profile (update address, request a name change or social security update, etc.)
- ❑ View their individual certification record
- ❑ View/update their professional development record
- ❑ **Charter School Administrators may:**
- ❑ View the certification status of employed teachers and prospective employees
- ❑ View/update professional development hours completed by teachers they employ
- ❑ Enter Superintendent's Statement for a Supplementary Certificate



More Information about TEACH

- **For Applicants for an Initial, Professional, Provisional, Permanent, Conditional Initial or Teaching Assistant certification**
 - TEACH Online Services is easy to use from any computer connected to the internet.
 - Visit the Office of Teaching Initiatives home page, www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert
 - Click the TEACH icon and you'll be brought to a page that lists all the services TEACH provides.
 - From there, if you're an applicant for certification or fingerprint clearance, or a certificate holder seeking to update your account, click the "Self Registration" link and create your TEACH Account.
 - Once you've created an account, you can login to TEACH Online Services to complete your application, pay fees, check application or fingerprint clearance status or update your professional development record



Application Process via Transcript Evaluation

- Teachers who apply via transcript evaluation must apply and pay on-line via TEACH and then mail ALL original transcripts and certificates of completion of both workshops to the NYS Education Department, Office of Teaching, 89 Washington Avenue, Room 5N-EB, Albany NY 12234.
- New York State Teacher Certification Exam results are electronically sent to the SED from National Evaluation Systems (NES).
- NO certificate will be issued without SED fingerprint clearance!

Application Process via College Recommendation

Approved Teacher Preparation Program

- A person may complete a teacher education program in a New York college or university and be recommended for a certificate provided that program has been registered by the Department as leading to the designated certificate.
- The institutional recommendation will be completed by the recommending institution using TEACH Online Services.
- Applicants for certification should click on TEACH and create a TEACH account. Once an account is created, the applicant can login to TEACH to apply for certification through the approved program pathway.
- The applicant should contact the recommending institution for additional instructions. College recommended applicants must also satisfy the testing requirement and obtain fingerprint clearance before the certificate can be issued.

Fingerprint Process for Charter School Employees

All Charter School Employees Must Obtain Fingerprint Clearance from the NYS Education Department!

Option 1

- Prospective and Current Charter School Employees who have not previously been fingerprinted by the NYCDOE nor have prior NYS fingerprint clearance:
 - Log onto TEACH through www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert
 - Click on TEACH as a new registrant and create user name and password. If not new, go to log in and do same.
 - Complete the on-line application for fingerprint processing
 - Pay the fingerprint fee on-line via credit card (\$99)
 - Download the fingerprint coupon

Fingerprint Process for Charter School Employees (continued)

- ❑ School leader or designee must request a referral letter from Aamir Raza, DOE's Office of New Schools at SRaza@schools.nyc.gov.
- ❑ Please include the name, SS#, position of the prospective candidate and name of the school.
- ❑ Within 3-5 business days, the referral letter will be emailed to the school .
- ❑ The approval email authorizes 65 Court Street personnel to roll the individual's prints at the request of the employing charter school.

Fingerprint Process for Charter School Employees (continued)

- Individual goes to 65 Court Street, rooms 102 in Brooklyn, NY to have his/her/prints taken by DOE staff.
- Must bring the following with them to 65 Court Street:
 - TEACH fingerprint coupon and a Photo ID
 - \$10 money order payable to the NYCDOE (no cash or check accepted)
 - Two FBI blue fingerprint cards if provided by the charter school. If not, the DOE will provide these cards to the candidate.
 - Referral letter from the charter school



Fingerprint Process for Charter School Employees (continued)

- ❑ Complete the top portion of both FBI blue fingerprint cards as completely as possible
- ❑ Do not make any stray marks on the card.
- ❑ If a fingerprint card is missing required information, or a fingerprint card has stray marks or highlighting on it, the application will be rejected before it is processed, which will result in a significant delay in processing.



Fingerprint Process for Charter School Employees (continued)

- Mail the FBI fingerprint cards and the TEACH fingerprint coupon to the address indicated on the coupon.
- The SED will match the cards to the payment and the personal information that was submitted on-line. Within two weeks of submission to the SED, authorized charter school staff may go on-line through their individual access code to TEACH and request a clearance. Clearance will not be available if the cards are rejected for image or held up for investigative purposes.



Fingerprint Process for Charter School Employees (continued)

- *Note to school leaders/designees:
- You can send a person to a local precinct to follow the same process as the DOE. No referral email is required.
- The precinct will determine the fee to perform this action
- The individual must still mail the completed FBI cards and coupon to Albany.



Emergency Conditional Appointment

- ❑ **The Emergency Conditional Appointment**
- ❑ No individual may begin employment which requires interaction with students at a charter school until after his/her fingerprints have been cleared by SED.
- ❑ This process may take an extended period of time.
- ❑ The Board of Trustees (or if designated, Principal or the CEO only) can make an Emergency Conditional Appointment which is valid for 20 business days from the employee's start date in the school.
- ❑ This appointment must be in the form of a signed statement indicating that the individual has no criminal history.

Emergency Conditional Appointment (continued)

- ❑ This document must remain in the employee's school file along with evidence of having been fingerprinted (receipt from DOE), and copies of the OSPRA forms filed with SED.
- ❑ It is renewable every 20 days until the school receives the actual fingerprint clearance from SED.
- ❑ Please note that in order for the conditional appointment to be valid for the SED and in compliance with Article 56, the charter school must have a Board-approved policy in place which a) designates a particular individual/position as the responsible party for overseeing appointments; b) outlines the procedure for renewing the appointments.
- ❑ As needed, you can duplicate the "Emergency Conditional Appointment in a NYC Charter School."

Sample of Emergency Conditional Appointment Letter

- Emergency Conditional Appointment in a NYC Charter School
- (Print full name)
- I now reside at _____ (Street Address)
- _____ City) _____ (State) _____ Zip code
- (_____) _____ (Phone #)
- My social security number is ____/____/_____.
- My date of birth is ____/____/_____.
- I have applied for employment with the _____ Charter School in the title of _____ and my fingerprints have been submitted to the NYS Education Department (NYSED).
- I understand that the NYSED will conduct an investigation to determine whether I have any criminal record and will evaluate that record. I also understand that the above charter school is requesting a conditional appointment for 20 days between the date on this statement and the time the NYSED issues a full clearance (renewable if necessary).
- I have not been convicted of any criminal offense nor are there any criminal charges pending against me.
- _____
- Applicant's signature
- Approved by _____ (Designee of Board of Trustees)
- At _____ Charter School _____ Date
- Renewed on _____ by _____
- Renewed on _____ by _____

Fingerprint Process for Charter School Employees (printed previously by DOE)

OPTION 2

For Prospective and Current Charter School Employees who have already been printed and cleared by the NYC DOE (Do not get printed again unless printed by the DOE PRIOR to July 1, 1990)

- The employee completes the OSPRA 104 and FAXES it to the Office of Personnel Investigations, (718) 935-2726 with a note to release the prints to the State Education Department. Or, mail the OSPRA form to:
 - DOE Office of Personnel Investigations, 65 Court Streets, Room 102
Brooklyn, NY 11201
- Two weeks later, the employing school should go on-line through their authorized TEACH access and request a clearance.
- OSPRA forms are available online at:
 - www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/ospra



Fingerprint Process for Charter School Employees

(previously cleared by SED but worked elsewhere)

OPTION 3

For Prospective and current charter school employees whose prints have cleared with the NYS Education Department after July 1, 2001, but were employed elsewhere

- Do not get printed again.
- The employing school should go on-line through their authorized access to TEACH and request a clearance.

Fingerprint Q & A

- Q. If out-of-state individuals have been printed and cleared in their former state, do they need to be printed again?
- A. Yes, they must be printed and cleared by the SED to obtain a teaching certificate.
- Q. Can a person be printed in another state and send their fingerprint cards to the SED?
- A. Yes
- Q. A school leader was printed for an NYS administrative certificate through the police station. Does he need to be printed through the DOE?
- A1. No, if his prints are on file with the SED anytime after July 1, 2001. The employing charter school should go on-line to TEACH and request the clearance.
- A2. Yes, if his prints were never sent to the SED.
- Q. What if a person's prints are rejected due to smudging, etc.?
- A. If the packet is rejected, OSPRA will mail the person detailed instructions on the steps needed to follow to resubmit the packet.
- Q. Can a person send a personal check instead of submitting the fee via credit card in TEACH?
- A. No, the best bet is to apply via credit card in TEACH. However, if one chooses to mail in the fee, the SED will accept a **postal money order** only! Non-payment or partial payment will prevent the prints from being processed and cleared for employment.



TEACHHelp Line

- Having a technical problem using TEACH Online Services?
- Contact the SED by clicking on the “Report Problems Using TEACH” link or;
- Call them at their special **TEACHHELP Line: (518) 486-6041 Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.**



Websites for more information

- www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert
- www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/fees.htm
- www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/form.htm
- [http://eservices.nysed.gov/teach/certhelp/CertRequirement
Help.do](http://eservices.nysed.gov/teach/certhelp/CertRequirementHelp.do)
- [www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/maintaincert-
prof.htm](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/maintaincert-prof.htm)
- www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/faq.htm



More Websites

- www.childabuseworkshop.com
- www.childabuseworkshop.com
- www.schoolviolenceworkshop.com
- www.laboratoryconsultationservices.com
- www.nystce.nesinc.com
- www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/ospra/index.html
- www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/topics_az.htm



And more related sites...

- Exams that can be used to satisfy some of the professional education requirements for those applying via transcript evaluation
 - College Level Examination Program (CLEP) - 800-257-9558
www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/clep/about.html
 - DANTES - www.getcollegecredit.com – 877-471-9860
 - EXCELSIOR – www.excelsior.edu (literacy) – 888-647-2388
 - Center for Integrated Teacher Education (CITE) –
www.citeonline.com – 877.922.2483 (coursework towards certification in students with disabilities as well as the developmental level requirement for early childhood, childhood and middle level grades)



Teaching Assistants

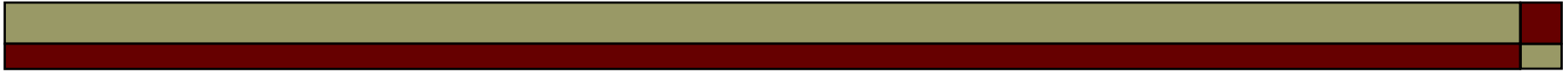
- **Level I** – HS diploma, passing score on NYS ATAS or LAST. Valid for 3 years and possible 3 year renewal.
- **Level II** – Same as Level I PLUS 6 credits of coursework towards an associate’s or bachelor’s degree, and 1 year of TA experience. Valid for 3 years and not renewable.
- **Level III** – Same as Level I PLUS matriculation in a bachelor’s program PLUS 18 credits towards an associate’s or bachelor’s degree, 1 year of TA experience and approved Professional Development (PD) activities. Continuously valid with completion of required PD every five years.



Teaching Assistants (continued)

- **Pre-Professional Teaching Certificate** – Requirements for Level I, 1 year of TA experience PLUS matriculated in a teacher ed program. Valid for 5 years and renewable.

All applicants must apply and pay on-line via TEACH, mail necessary documents, including workshops, and have fingerprint clearance.



NOTES





Part II

- NCLB and “Highly Qualified” Criteria



Who should know the Federal Guidelines?

Those who:

- hire teachers and teaching assistants**
- assign duties to teachers and teaching assistants**
- prepare accountability information (BEDS, principals attestations)**
- make and implement staffing plans**
- administer federal programs and funds**



Who Must Be Highly Qualified?

Highly Qualified Teachers

Every public school teacher who is the teacher of record* for a core academic subject in grades K-12 must:

- Meet NYS certification standards for each teaching assignment (except for eligible uncertified charter school teachers) and**
- Be “highly qualified (HQ)” as defined by the No child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) or the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)**



What are the core academic subjects?

- ❑ **English**
- ❑ **Reading**
- ❑ **Language arts**
- ❑ **Mathematics**
- ❑ **Science**
- ❑ **History**
- ❑ **Geography**
- ❑ **Economics**
- ❑ **Civics and government**
- ❑ **Languages other than English (LOTE)**
- ❑ **The arts: art, dance, music, theater**
(including public speaking), drama

What Makes a Teacher Highly Qualified?

There are 4 definitions of HQ based on:

THE LEVEL OF AN ASSIGNMENT IN A CORE SUBJECT

- **1. Elementary.** Common branch subjects in grades K-6, “special classes” for students with disabilities in grades K-6 or the age equivalent; and “special classes” for students with disabilities of any grade or age who all qualify for the NYS Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) or:
- **Middle/secondary.** Classes in grades 7-12 in: core academic subjects; the arts, languages other than English and reading; and “special classes” in core academic subjects for students with disabilities in grades 7-12 or age equivalent unless all students in the “special class” qualify for the NYSAA

What Makes a Teacher Highly Qualified?

A TEACHER'S NEWNESS TO THE PROFESSION

- 1. ***New.*** First year following the effective date of a teacher's first-ever teaching certificate except for charter school teachers who are not certified for whom "new" is the first year following the date upon which the teacher meets the applicable qualification permitted by Ed Law 2854(3)(a-1) OR during the first year of employment in a public school
- 2. ***Not new.*** After first year following the effective date of a teacher's first teaching certificate, except for charter school teachers who are not certified for whom "not new" is after the first year following the date upon which the teacher meets the applicable qualification permitted by Ed Law OR after the first year of full-time equivalent in a public school



How do you determine if “new” teachers with elementary assignments are HQ?

They are HQ if they meet the following:

- ❑ bachelor’s or higher degree; and
- ❑ Have a valid NYS certificate or NYC license for the assignment or is doing approved “incidental” teaching or covered by charter school exemption or definition; **and**
- ❑ Passed the LAST and ATS-W or:
- ❑ Have a valid Transitional certificate for the assignment or:
- ❑ Have a Conditional Initial certificate and passed exams such as PRAXIS for their out-of-state certificate



How do you determine if “not new” teachers with elementary assignments are HQ?

They are HQ if they meet the qualifications under “new” to the profession but have **additional options** to demonstrate subject matter competency:

- Passed comparable exams to the LAST and ATS-W (see checklist) or;
- Passed a NYC Board of Examiners licensing exam in the in the subject area or;
- Passed the high objective State standard of evaluation (HOUSSE) for teachers with elementary assignments



How do you determine if “new” teachers with middle/secondary assignments are HQ?

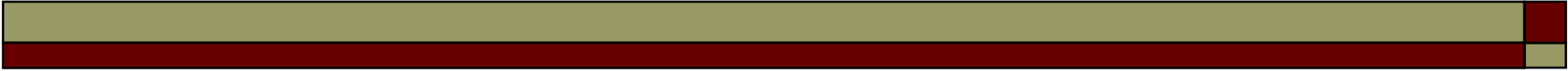
They are HQ if they meet the following:

- bachelor’s or higher degree; and
- Have a valid NYS certificate or NYC license for the assignment or covered by charter school exemption or definition or is doing approved “incidental” teaching; **and**
- Demonstrate subject matter competency for each core subject they teach with **ONE** of the following:
 - Passed a NYSTCE Content Specialty Test in the subject, or for grades 7-9, passed the Multi-Subject CST; or
 - Completed an undergraduate major in the subject; or
 - Completed equivalent coursework (30 credits) in the subject; or



How do you determine if “new” teachers with middle/secondary assignments are HQ? (cont.)

- Have a graduate degree in the subject; or
- Have a Conditional Initial certificate in the assignment and passed comparable exams for the certificate



How do you determine if “not new” teachers with middle/secondary assignments are HQ?

They are HQ if they meet the qualifications for “new” to the profession but have **additional** options to demonstrate subject matter competency:

- ❑ Passed comparable exams to the Content Specialty Test such as PRAXIS; or
- ❑ Passed a NYC Board of Examiners licensing exam in the in the subject area or:
- ❑ Have a permanent NYS certificate in the subject
- ❑ Passed the HOUSSE for middle/secondary teachers

What types of certificates are valid for NCLB's HQ definition?

- The New York State Education Department accepts every certificate that they issue for the **certification part** of the NCLB definition of “highly qualified”
- This includes a valid provisional, permanent, initial, professional, conditional initial, transitional and internship certificate
- Exchange permits granted by the SED for visiting international teachers and visiting lecturer licenses are full certificates for NCLB and IDEA purposes.

NCLB and IDEA Requirements for Charter Schools

- **Licensure.** It is SED's policy that New York City licenses are valid certificates for use in charter schools located in New York City.
- **Highly Qualified.** All charter school teachers who teach core academic subjects, including those teachers retained in accordance with the "thirty/five exception," must also meet the remaining requirements for a "highly qualified" teacher applicable to other public schools.

NCLB and IDEA Requirements for Charter Schools (cont.)

- **So long as the HOUSSE remains a statutory option for teachers to demonstrate their subject matter competency, charter schools may use the HOUSSE as per the Field Memo above as part of the teacher evaluation process in their charter document that is comparable to an Annual Professional Performance Review.**
- **The NCLB's requirements for Title I paraprofessional apply to charter schools that receive Title 1, Part A funds.**



NCLB and IDEA Requirements for Charter Schools (continued)

Section 2854(3)(a-1) also says that “A teacher certified or otherwise approved by the commissioner shall not be included in the numerical limits established by the preceding sentence.” This means that a certified charter school teacher who is teaching out of the scope of his/her certificate does not count as an uncertified teacher for charter school purposes, regardless of the match between the teacher’s certificate and his/her assignments.



NCLB Requirements for “Qualified” Title I Paraprofessionals (Teaching Assistants)

A Title I paraprofessional is one who:

- Has instructional support duties and
- Works in a program supported with NCLB Title I, Part A funds



NCLB Requirements for “Qualified” Title I Paraprofessionals (continued)

Title I paraprofessionals must meet both State and federal requirements which means they must be:

- state certified teaching assistants; and**
- “qualified” as defined by the NCLB**
 - A “qualified” Title I paraprofessional has a high school diploma or equivalent and one of the following:
 - At least 2 years of college; or
 - A minimum of an associate’s degree; or
 - Has passed a formal State (or local academic assessment)

Note: The State assessment – New York State Assessment of Teaching Assistant Skills (NYSATAS) serves both State and NCLB purposes and is required for all candidates for teaching assistant certificates who applied after 2/1/04



NCLB Parents Right to Know

- **Title I LEAs must notify parents of their right to know about teacher qualifications at the beginning of each school year.**
- **WHICH PARENTS?** Parents of students attending schools receiving Title I funds.
- **WHICH TEACHERS?** Children's classroom teachers, regardless of whether they are employed directly by the LEA or under contract with another entity, such as a BOCES.



NCLB Parents Right to Know (cont.)

Title I LEA notices must contain information about:

- certification for classes being taught;**
- bachelor's degree major; and**
- other certifications or degrees by field.**

Notice may be in any format, including newsletters that go to every parent, and must be clear and in languages parents can understand.



NCLB Parents Right to Know (cont.)

Each school receiving Title I, Part A funds must provide to each individual parent the following information:

- ❑ child's performance on academic assessments; and**
- ❑ as appropriate, timely notice that the child has been been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher of a core academic subject who is not *highly qualified*.**
- ❑ This information must be sent to each parent individually to protect privacy, and to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.**



Useful Websites for NCLB

- www.highered.nysed.gov/nclbhome.htm
- Email: nclbnys@mail.nysed.gov
- www.highered.nysed.gov/nclb032007.htm
- www.highered.nysed.gov/pdf/nclb032007.pdf
This is the actual document
- www.schools.nyc.gov



NOTES
