

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Memorandum to: Deans of Faculties of Education
Directors of Education
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

From: Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

Subject: **Temporary Certificate of Qualification and Registration
- Update**

I am writing to inform you that on December 1, 2021, an amendment to Ontario Regulation 176/10 (Teachers' Qualifications), under the *Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996*, has been filed to expand the use of Temporary Certificates.

In January 2021, Temporary Certificates were introduced as a time-limited emergency measure to respond to occasional teacher shortages in Ontario school boards due to the health impacts of COVID-19. Temporary Certificates allow eligible teacher candidates to be employed as occasional teachers and complete required practicum days at the same time. From January to October 2021, more than 3,200 Temporary Certificates were issued.

Given continued shortages and following engagement with sector partners, the regulatory amendments will expand the use of Temporary Certificates to a new cohort of Ontario teacher candidates. Temporary Certificates issued to the new cohort will be effective on or after January 1, 2022, and expire December 31, 2022. To be eligible, teacher candidates must have already successfully completed a portion of their practicum, be progressing well in their academic program, and be on track to successfully complete their teacher education program by December 31, 2022.

Applicants will still need to successfully complete the Mathematics Proficiency Test and the Sexual Abuse Prevention Program before being granted a Temporary Certificate. Teacher candidates who start an application with the Ontario College of Teachers can sign up to take the Mathematics Proficiency Test anytime during their Initial Teacher Education program. The current test window runs until December 15, 2021. The next test window will open for registration on January 10, 2022. The Sexual Abuse Prevention Program will launch on January 3, 2022 and the new cohort of teacher candidates must complete it as part of their Temporary Certificate application.

The amendments also allow the Registrar to provide an extension of up to six months for current Temporary Certificate holders who submit, before their certificate expires on December 31, 2021, evidence satisfactory to the Registrar that they are a member of the College in good standing, and they are taking reasonable steps to complete their

program of professional education, or have applied to convert their Temporary Certificate into a general certificate and the general certificate has not yet been issued. Even if a current Temporary Certificate is extended, a teacher would still be required to pass the Mathematics Proficiency Test by December 31, 2021, or the certificate would expire on that date. As a current member of the College as of January 1, 2022, they would also be required to complete the Sexual Abuse Prevention Program by August 31, 2022.

The expansion of Temporary Certificates to a new cohort is intended to help provide temporary staffing stabilization in our schools. It will also contribute to the completion of required practicum days at the same time.

As with the initial cohort, Temporary Certificate holders are members of the Ontario College of Teachers. Faculties of Education will continue to set guidelines for their students depending on the structure and flexibility of their program. School boards are expected to hire from their existing daily occasional teaching and long-term occasional teaching roster prior to hiring teacher candidates on a Temporary Certificate, subject to the terms of local agreements.

Thank you for sharing this information with school board human resources representatives and faculty registrars. Information regarding how to apply for a Temporary Certificate will be shared by the Ontario College of Teachers and will be posted on the College website.

Sincerely,

Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

- c: Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
- Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
- Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
- Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
- Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
- Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
- General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
- General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
- General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
- Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)
- Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)
- Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)
- Executive Director, Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
- Executive Director, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
- Executive Director, Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)
- Transition Supervisory Officer, Ontario College of Teachers (OCT)
- Registrar and CEO, Ontario College of Teachers (OCT)