

Qualification for Teachers Providing Language Instruction Educational Programs for English Learners

Ohio's strategic plan for education, [Each Child, Our Future](#), supports Ohio's efforts to ensure all preK-12 classrooms have highly effective teachers to ensure student success. With Ohio's increasingly diverse student body, school districts must ensure teachers have the qualifications necessary to implement the required language instruction educational programs¹ that provide English learners with language development instruction and equitable access to academic content (Every Student Succeeds Act, 2015).

As evidence of these qualifications, Ohio offers two standard licensure options: a standard multi-age license or an endorsement to a valid, standard Ohio teaching license. Both the multi-age license and the endorsement currently are available in the areas of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and Bilingual Education. Individuals who have completed approved, traditional teacher preparation programs in either area through accredited colleges or universities and met exam requirements (if applicable) may be eligible for the respective Ohio license or endorsement.

Another option is a supplemental license. An individual who holds a standard teaching license or certificate in an area other than TESOL or Bilingual Education who has been hired to teach English learners can apply for a supplemental teaching license at the request of his or her employing school district. For the TESOL supplemental license, the requirements include holding a valid, standard Ohio teaching license or certificate, successfully completing the [Ohio Assessments for Educators content exam](#) for TESOL, and being hired by an Ohio school or district in a position that requires the TESOL license or endorsement. For the Bilingual Education supplemental license, the requirements include holding a valid, standard Ohio teaching license or certificate and being hired by an Ohio school or district in a position that requires the Bilingual Education license or endorsement.

A supplemental license is valid for one year. During that time, the employing school district assigns a mentor to the individual holding the supplemental license. The assigned mentor should be an experienced teacher who currently holds a license in the same, or a related, content area as the supplemental license.

To renew the supplemental license, the individual needs to continue to hold a valid, standard Ohio teaching license and be employed in a teaching position that requires the license. An individual can teach under a supplemental teaching license for a maximum of three years to allow time for completion of all requirements for the standard license or endorsement. View more information on the Ohio Department of Education's [supplemental teaching license for endorsement areas webpage](#).

Educational aides and paraprofessionals are not qualified to implement language instruction educational programs ([Office for Civil Rights, 2015](#)). An educational aide or paraprofessional may provide instructional support in a language instruction educational program under the direct supervision of a properly licensed teacher. Additional guidance about paraprofessional qualifications is available on the [Department's website](#).

The Department's [website](#) contains additional information about licensure requirements and procedures. For course-specific licensure information, please see the [Certification and Licensure Dictionary](#).

For additional questions about educator licensure, contact the Office of Educator Licensure at educator.licensure@education.ohio.gov. For questions about programs for English learners, contact the Lau Resource Center for English Learners at lau@education.ohio.gov.

¹ <https://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/title-iii/language-instruction-ed-programs-report.pdf>