



Ohio

Resource Guide for Establishing and Maintaining Local Professional Development Committees

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Part 1: Requirements and Responsibilities

The Legal Basis for Local Professional Development Committees

In 1996, the Ohio General Assembly authorized the creation of Local Professional Development Committees (LPDCs) and mandated they be established in every school district and chartered nonpublic school by September 1998 (Ohio Revised Code 3319.22). The purpose of each committee is to review the coursework and other professional development activities proposed and completed by educators in a district to determine if they have met the requirements for renewal of their licenses. The LPDC review of professional development activities does not apply to personnel with professional pupil services licenses that require credentialing through related licensure boards. **The Local Professional Development Committee's responsibility begins when an educator obtains a professional license.**

Other educational agencies¹ can establish LPDCs on their own or by collaborating with a school district or other agency that has the authority to establish them. These must be structured comparably to the LPDCs for school districts.

Based on LPDC review and approval, the Ohio Department of Education issues licenses. Review by a LPDC does not mean the educator is qualified to work in that district only; the license is valid in any district in Ohio.

The Specifications of Ohio Revised Code Section 3319.22

The requirements in law for LPDCs vary depending on the type of district or organization establishing and maintaining the LPDC. These types of districts or organizations include the following:

- Public school districts with collective bargaining units;
- Public school districts with no bargaining units;
- Chartered nonpublic schools;
- Non-school entities.

Regardless of the type of district or organization, all LPDCs will include at least five total members and a majority of teacher members. For LPDCs, a teacher is someone working under a teaching certificate or license and employed under a teaching contract.

¹ Including, but not limited to, the Ohio Department of Education, educational service centers, county boards of developmental disabilities, college/university departments of education, Head Start programs, the Ohio SchoolNet Commission and the Ohio Education Computer Network.

Four-Tiered Teacher Licensure Structure

Resident Educator License/Alternative Resident Educator License – 4-Year Renewable/Extendable

Resident Educator License Requirements	Alternative Resident Educator License Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor’s degree, an approved program of teacher preparation, pass examinations prescribed by State Board of Education, and 12 semester hours of reading coursework for early childhood, middle childhood, intervention specialist and early childhood intervention specialist licenses; OR • Bachelor’s degree, GPA of 2.5 or higher, pass an examination in the subject area to be taught, successfully complete the summer training institute operated by Teach for America and be assigned to teach in Ohio as a participant in the Teach for America program. 	<p><i>Designated Subjects, World Languages and Intervention Specialist</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor’s degree; • Cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher; • Content area examination(s); and • Completion of Intensive Pedagogical Training Institute (IPTI) or Summer Training Institute. <p><i>Career-Technical Workforce Development (CTWD)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of a high school diploma; • Five years of full-time work experience in the career field to be taught; and • Completion of a Summer Training Institute. <p><i>Montessori</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor’s degree; • Completion of an American Montessori Society affiliated teacher education program; or • Hold a certificate from the Association Montessori Internationale.

Professional Educator License – 5-Year Renewable

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree (except Career-Technical Workforce Development);
- Successful completion of the Ohio Resident Educator Program (except Career-Technical Workforce Development must teach under alternative Career-Technical Workforce Development Resident Educator license four years and successfully complete performance-based assessment);
- Alternative license advance/renewal/extension requires successful completion of all additional requirements for professional license.

Senior Professional Educator License – 5-Year Renewable

A + B + C

A	B	C
Degree Requirement	Experience	Demonstration of Practice at the Accomplished/Distinguished Level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's degree or higher from an institution of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting organization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine years under a standard teaching license with 120 days of service, as defined by Ohio law, of which at least five years are under a professional/permanent license/certificate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of the Master Teacher Portfolio.

Lead Professional Educator License – 5-Year Renewable

A + B + C

A	B	C	
Degree Requirement	Experience	Demonstration of Practice at the Distinguished Level	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's degree or higher from an institution of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting organization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine years under a standard teaching license with 120 days of service, as defined by Ohio law, of which at least five years are under a professional/permanent license/certificate or a Senior Professional Educator License. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earn the Teacher Leader Endorsement AND successful completion of the Master Teacher Portfolio; OR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold active National Board Certification.

(Professional, Senior and Lead license RENEWALS require six semester hours/18 CEUs, as approved by the LPDC of the employing school or district, to be completed after issue date of license being renewed and before Sept. 1 of license expiration year)

The following pages list the highlights of the LPDC requirements. See the full text of the law in ORC 3319.22.

Requirements in Law for Public School Districts *with* Collective Bargaining Units

- LPDCs will be established following the collective bargaining agreement in effect;
- If there are no specifications for selecting members, the exclusive representative of the district's teachers will select teacher members and replacements in cases of vacancy;
- If there are no specifications for the establishment of the LPDC, the district's board of education will establish the following:
 1. Committee structure – the number of committees; the distribution of teacher, administrator and other members on each; the scope of the committee (districtwide, by building, by grade level or by license type);
 2. Selection of administrative members and replacements in case of vacancy;
 3. Term length of members;
 4. Frequency, time and place of meetings.
- The LPDC must establish a procedure by which an educator may appeal a LPDC's decision.

Requirements in Law for Public School Districts *without* Collective Bargaining Units

- The LPDC will consist of at least:
 1. Three classroom teachers employed by the district;
 2. One administrator employed by the district;
 3. One other district employee appointed by the district superintendent.
- The district's board of education will determine the structure and number of LPDCs, the terms of office and elections;
- LPDCs may be grouped:
 1. *At the district level:* Teacher members will be elected by a majority of the classroom teachers of the district. The administrator member will be elected by a majority vote of the district's principals, unless there are two or fewer employed in the district;
 2. *At the building level:* Teacher members will be elected by majority vote of the classroom teachers in that building;
 3. *By grade level or age level:* Teacher members will be licensed to teach at the corresponding grade or age. They will be elected by a majority of teachers with such licenses. The administrator member will be elected by other administrators in buildings with teachers with such licenses.
- The LPDC committee structure established by a district board shall remain in effect, unless with 30 days prior to an anniversary of the date upon which the current committee structure was established, the board provides notice to all affected district employees that the committee structure is to be modified;
- Vacancies among elected teacher members will be filled by vote of the remaining members. Other vacancies will be replaced by appointment by the district superintendent. Members filling vacancies will hold office for the remainder of the term;
- LPDCs may include additional members, but the majority must be classroom teachers from the district.
- The initial meeting of an LPDC will be called by a member designated by the district superintendent. At this meeting, the committee will:
 1. Name a chairperson;
 2. Select any other officers;
 3. Adopt rules for meetings.
- Subsequent meetings will be held at the call of the chairperson or after a majority of committee members sign and file a petition with the district superintendent. Dates, times and locations will be published within the district;

- The LPDC must establish a procedure by which an educator may appeal an LPDC decision.

Highlights of LPDC Requirements in Law by Type of District or Organization

CHARTERED NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

- The chief administrative officer has the authority to establish the LPDC in any manner so long as the LPDC meets the mandate of determining whether an educator’s proposed coursework or other professional development activity meets the requirements of the rules;
- The LPDC must establish a procedure by which an educator may appeal an LPDC decision.

NON-SCHOOL ENTITIES

- Institutions or agencies that provide educational services and employ or contract the services of certificated or licensed educators are permitted to establish LPDCs;
- Such institutions or agencies shall develop a plan for the structure, membership and operation of the committee based on guidelines established by the Ohio Department of Education;
- The LPDC must establish a procedure by which an educator may appeal an LPDC’s decision.

REGIONAL PROVIDERS

- Institutions, agencies or professional organizations that provide services to educators are permitted to establish LPDCs;
- Such institutions, agencies or professional organizations shall develop a plan for the structure, membership and operation of the committee based on the guidelines established by the Ohio Department of Education;
- The LPDC committee structure established by a regional provider shall remain in effect unless, with 30 days prior to an anniversary of LPDC establishment, the participants are notified that the committee structure is to change;
- The LPDC must include at least five licensed educators;
- The LPDC must establish a procedure by which an educator may appeal an LPDC’s decision.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTERS

- Educational service centers may establish LPDCs to serve licensed or certificated individuals who are not employed as educators or are not currently employed by entities that operate LPDCs;
- The LPDC shall determine whether proposed coursework, continuing education units or other equivalent activities meet the requirements for licensure renewal;
- Such agencies shall develop a plan for the structure, membership and operation of the committee in a manner comparable to committees established by public school districts with collective bargaining units and public school districts without collective bargaining units. Membership in an institution, agency or professional organization cannot be required for educators to participate in the LPDC;
- The LPDC must establish a procedure by which an educator may appeal an LPDC decision.

CONSORTIUMS

A consortium consists of two or more school districts or educational agencies joined together to establish an LPDC and share responsibilities for the LPDC work.

- If a school district with an exclusive bargaining unit joins a consortium in which other districts with collective bargaining units are members, the consortium will need to follow the guidelines for districts with collective bargaining units;
- If a consortium includes different districts with collective bargaining agents (such as an OEA local), an independent local would need to work together jointly and individually to undertake the responsibilities outlined for the bargaining unit;
- The LPDC must establish a procedure by which an educator may appeal an LPDC’s decision.

Responsibilities of the Local Professional Development Committee

LPDCs are responsible for reviewing and approving Individual Professional Development Plans (IPDPs), coursework and other professional development activities that educators propose to complete to renew their licenses.

To fulfill their responsibilities, LPDCs need to:

Be informed:

- Know the district goals, particularly as identified in the district's Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) or strategic plan;
- Know the current law, licensure standards and Department policies regarding LPDC responsibilities for licensure renewal; and
- Ensure that educators' coursework and other professional development activities meet the standards for renewal of licenses.

Educate and assist all members:

- Orient new members to the licensure standards and the operating principles, timelines and processes of the LPDC;
- Align to the [Ohio Standards for Professional Development](#); and
- Promote High Quality Professional Development (HQPD) as defined by the Ohio Standards for Professional Development (see the Standards for Professional Development and related resources [available here](#)).

Establish and abide by operating procedures:

- Develop an IPDP format for use by educators;
- Follow criteria established by the Department for evaluation of educators' IPDPs;
- Establish operating procedures and timelines for the submission and review of an IPDP, coursework and other professional development activities;
- Develop and use criteria for awarding Continuing Education Units (CEUs) based on educators' contact hours;
- Use the form [Verification Form for Educators Leaving the LPDC](#); and
- Periodically evaluate LPDC operations for effectiveness, timeliness, efficiency and professional courtesy.

Communicate clearly and maintain records:

- Establish communication procedures to keep all constituents up-to-date on LPDC matters;
- Communicate to all constituents in a regular and systematic way;
- Keep records of LPDC matters according to statute; and
- Encourage educators to maintain their own records as well.

Operate under the Open Meetings Act (Sunshine Law) and the Public Records Act

Note: Legal counsel for the Ohio Department of Education has indicated that since there is no specific exemption in law, LPDCs need to operate under the Open Meetings Act (Sunshine Law). LPDCs may choose to follow the local board of education's policies and procedures on meetings, personnel records and review or may wish to seek advice concerning these laws from local counsel. Chartered nonpublic schools are exempt from the Open Meetings Act.

A full and current update of the [Ohio Open Meetings Act and Public Records Act](#) is available at the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

Regional LPDC Support Team Members

The Regional LPDC Support Team was established in 2005 to facilitate transition to a standards-based professional development state system, specifically to:

- Organize and hold informational meetings for LPDC members in their assigned areas;
- Work cooperatively with Ohio stakeholders to develop tools and strategies for effectively implementing the Ohio Professional Development Standards across the state; and
- Develop standards-based criteria for LPDCs to use to evaluate Individual Professional Development Plans (IPDPs).

Regional support team members may cover more than one region. Click [here](#) to locate the contact information for the Regional LPDC Support Team members serving your region.

Responsibilities of the Educator

Be informed:

- Meet licensure requirements in a timely manner, including the submittal of the licensure renewal applications;
- Know the professional development and renewal application requirements for educator licensure, including the meaning of license issuance and expiration;
- Choose coursework and other professional development activities that align with the appropriate [Ohio Educator Standards](#); and
- Know district goals, particularly as identified in the district's Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) or strategic plan.

Abide by LPDC operating procedures:

- Follow the LPDC procedures, criteria and timelines for reviews of IPDPs;
- Submit the IPDP for LPDC approval soon after receiving a new or renewed license;
- Obtain LPDC approval of the IPDP *before* engaging in professional development for licensure renewal; professional development done either before or outside the scope of an approved IPDP will not be accepted for licensure renewal.

Maintain records:

- Keep records of all licensure and LPDC transactions, including:
 - The LPDC review and approval/request for revision of an IPDP;
 - Transcripts for coursework; and
 - Required documentation for equivalent other activities (EOAs).

Senior Professional/Lead Professional Educator Licensure:

- Keep current Master Teacher information and/or National Board certification on file

Part 2: Guidelines for Local Professional Development Committees

Plan of Operation

A Plan of Operation is the description of the way in which a LPDC fulfills its responsibilities. The plan outlines the purpose, guiding principles, timelines and processes through which the LPDC carries out its function of determining whether the coursework or equivalent professional development activities proposed by educators seeking the renewal of a license meet the requirements of Ohio's Teacher Education and Licensure Standards.

A thorough, well-developed Plan of Operation is critical to the success of an LPDC. A Plan of Operation should include the following elements, which are described in further detail below:

- Philosophy;
- Purpose;
- Criteria for coursework or professional development activities (see *Organizing for High Quality Professional Development*);
- Relationship among the LPDC, the building's improvement plan, the district's Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) or strategic plan and local professional development activities;
- Composition of the membership, selection of members and terms of office;
- Operational procedures;
- Reflection and revision;
- Forms.

Philosophy

A clear statement of beliefs and values that govern the operation of the LPDC, the philosophy may be based on the vision or mission statements of the school or district that the committee serves. It should express the committee's understanding of the nature of professional development and the relationship between High Quality Professional Development (HQPD) and the improvement of educational practice.

Purpose

This element of the plan outlines the task of the committee. LPDCs are responsible for approving Individual Professional Development Plans (IPDPs) and determining whether coursework or professional development activities are HQPD and meet the requirements of license renewal.

Criteria for coursework or professional development activities

This element describes in detail the criteria by which an IPDP's goals and activities will be evaluated. These criteria provide the basis for the evaluation of whether the IPDP meets the needs of the district, school, educator and students. This element is the essence of the Plan of Operation for the review and approval of an IPDP and the subsequent coursework or professional development activities taken.

LPDCs are encouraged to ground their criteria in the Ohio Educator Standards.

Relationship among the LPDC, the building's improvement plan, the district's Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) or strategic plan and local professional development activities

Because the IPDP must reflect the needs of the district and the school, the LPDC Plan of Operation should ensure LPDC members are familiar with the CCIP or strategic plan of the district and school and the LPDC criteria are appropriately aligned.

Composition of membership, selection of members and term of office

The membership of the LPDC, selection of members and terms of office must be established in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3319.22 (see Part 1).

Operating procedures

This section outlines specifically how the LPDC will operate. It includes the following:

- The procedures, criteria and timelines for the review and approval of IPDPs, coursework and other professional development activities;
- The frequency and location of meetings;
- The duties of committee members;
- The process for selecting the committee chair;
- The process for reviewing and approving IPDPs and documenting the review process;
- The decision-making processes;
- Methods and dates for internal and external communication, including the notification of educators regarding LPDC decisions;
- Guidelines for maintaining records;
- Procedures and timelines for handling appeals;
- The system for verification of professional development to educators; and
- The process for registering new LPDCs using the online CORE LPDC system. **Once the LPDC has been registered with an IRN, it is not necessary to register again each year.** The date associated with the LPDC indicates the year it was registered. A change request is only necessary when updating and changing the coordinator and designees. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Reflection and Revision

The LPDC should establish a process of self-assessment, which should include consideration of the views of district educators regarding the effectiveness of the committee's work, procedures and criteria. The results of this self-assessment should be used to redesign and revise the Plan of Operation as necessary. All changes should be made with the advice and knowledge of the educators represented by the LPDC.

Forms

All forms used by the LPDC to facilitate the license renewal process should be included. Committees are encouraged to use the LPDC forms provided by the Department, which align directly to Ohio's Standards for Educators. See the [LPDC Forms webpage](#), which features the following documents:

1. **LPDC Step-by-Step** – This graphic illustrates how the work of the LPDCs aligns with the School Improvement model and Plan-Do-Study-Act. It shows how individual educators need to consider the new and improved IPDP as a process rather than merely a plan. It also shows IPDPs to be recursive documents, which cycle through steps 2 and 3 several times during an individual educator's license cycle.
2. **Recommended IPDP Template** – District committees may use this MS Word document as is or select portions most appropriate for their needs. Districts using online IPDP forms may wish to include some of the new content in fields made available for optional content. Also included — a SAMP IPDP showing how an educator might complete the IPDP template.
3. **Recommended Pre-Approval Template** – Many districts require pre-approval for all professional development experiences; others do not. This document will prove particularly useful as a method for verifying non-traditional professional development endeavors, often called Equivalent Other Activities or EOAs. Also included — two sample pre-Approval templates, which illustrate how an educator can track alignment to the professional development standards on specific activities.
4. **Professional Development Summary** – This document is designed to help LPDCs track educators' professional development activities as they align to the Ohio Professional Development Standards.
5. **Contact Hour Verification Form** – In Ohio, only LPDCs can award CEUs. This form can be used by vendors and professional development providers to document contact hours with participants.
6. **Verification Form for Educators leaving the LPDC** – LPDCs should provide educators exiting their committee a completed version of this form. This will be done as the educator leaves the district.
7. **Suggested Webinar Verification Form** – Use this form to document webinar participation to your LPDC.

Reciprocity

In addition to facilitating the license renewal process, the LPDC represents local collegial efforts to support and maintain a high-quality teaching force throughout Ohio. In that collegial spirit, LPDCs should honor the efforts of educators who move into the district with a current IPDP approved by their prior LPDC. Educators should use the *Verification Form for Educators Leaving an Ohio LPDC*, referred to in the forms section.

When an educator leaves employment in a district, upon request from said educator, the former LPDC **must** provide verification of the approval of the educator's IPDP and any coursework and professional development completed by the educator and accepted by the LPDC using the *Verification Form for Educators Leaving an Ohio LPDC*. The LPDC should encourage the educator to approach the new LPDC as soon as possible with the ongoing IPDP to complete the reciprocity transfer.

When an educator takes employment in a new district, the new LPDC **must** honor the coursework and other professional development activities that a newly hired educator had completed pursuant to an IPDP approved by their former LPDC prior to employment in the new district. As soon as possible *after* employment and *before* engaging in any additional coursework or professional development activities, the newly hired educator must submit an IPDP in accordance with the operating procedures of the new district.

Appeal Process

Ohio Revised Code requires LPDCs to provide every educator served with the opportunity to appeal the decisions regarding the following:

- (a) IPDP approval; and
- (b) Pre-approval or approval of coursework and professional development activities.

Although the mandate requiring an appeal process is clear, **the LPDC is responsible to construct and implement it.**

To construct or revise the local appeal process, the LPDC should first **ensure the operating procedures, timelines, forms and criteria are explicitly stated in writing and communicated to all educators served.** To reduce confusion, potential disagreements and eventual appeals, clearly communicate expectations on the following LPDC basics:

- The criteria, format and directions for preparing the IPDP;
- The criteria, procedures and timelines for the approval of IPDPs and the acceptance of coursework and other professional development activities;
- The communication system in place between and among the LPDC and its constituent educators;
- The revision and resubmission process for non-approved IPDPs, coursework and other professional development activities;
- The recordkeeping policies and processes of the LPDC; and
- The process by which an educator may appeal a decision rendered by the LPDC.

Local-Level Review

In anticipation of potential appeals, the LPDC may find it beneficial to include the appeals process in the local policies and procedures. Because the appeals process is determined locally, specific features may vary from one LPDC to another. However, it is recommended every LPDC's appeal process provide for **at least** two stages of review such as *reconsideration and third-party review*.

Reconsideration

If an educator disagrees with an LPDC decision, it is recommended the educator be given the opportunity to meet with the LPDC to present his or her case. The discussion should be both open and collegial with the intent to provide both the educator and the LPDC the opportunity to understand each other's perspective while seeking a mutually acceptable resolution.

If a resolution is reached at this point in the process, it should be so documented and made a matter of record for the educator and for the LPDC.

If the parties cannot reach a mutually acceptable resolution, the LPDC policies may permit the educator to advance the appeal to a subsequent level, such as a third-party review.

Third-Party Review

If the educator and the LPDC cannot reach a mutually acceptable resolution, the LPDC may provide for a local third-party review and decision. One possible method for third-party review is for the LPDC to convene a panel of three licensed educators:

1. One educator selected by the LPDC;
2. One educator selected by the educator making the appeal; and
3. One educator approved by both the LPDC and the educator.

State-Level Review

In anticipation of potential appeals, the LPDC may elect to add a *final* appeals stage: a review of the matter by the Ohio Department of Education. **Unless an LPDC includes this step in its operating procedures, educators *cannot* appeal LPDC decisions beyond the third-party review.**

Part 3: Professional or Associate License Renewal (and Certificate Transition)

Note: This section of the document addresses requirements *only* for those educators who are currently working through a school, school district or an agency or institution registered with the Ohio Department of Education that has established a LPDC.

Licensed or certificated educators who are not working through an established LPDC must apply for renewal or transition directly through the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Educator Licensure. Since there would be no LPDC to review the other professional development activities and award continuing education units (CEUs), educators in this situation are able to use *only* college or university coursework toward renewal requirements.

Local Professional Development Committee Authorization

Which situations are managed by an LPDC?

- *Renewals of a 5-Year Professional License or a 5-Year Associate License;*
- *Transitions to the 5-Year License from an 8-Year Professional Certificate issued prior to July 2007.*

Who *must* work through an LPDC?

- All teaching, non-teaching and associate personnel (including interpreters and treasurers) who:
 - Hold a certificate, professional or an associate 5-year license; **and**
 - Are employed full- or part-time in the school, school district, agency or institution the LPDC represents; **and**
 - Wish to fulfill the license renewal requirements.

Who *may* work through an LPDC?

- Educators who hold certificates or 5-year licenses who are not currently employed as educators or not currently employed by entities that operate LPDCs. These individuals may work through an LPDC established by an educational service center (ESC) to fulfill license renewal requirements.
- Educators who hold certificates or 5-year licenses who substitute teach or interpret on a regular basis in the school or district the LPDC represents may work with the LPDC *if* its operational procedures include that provision. LPDC bylaws may permit licensed individuals not directly employed by the organization to be served by the LPDC. If there is no such operational procedure, substitute teachers must work directly with the Ohio Department of Education to fulfill license renewal requirements.

Who is *exempt* from working through an LPDC?

- School social workers, school speech-language pathologists, school nurses, school audiologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, occupational therapy assistants and physical therapy assistants are required to maintain licensure through their respective Ohio professional licensure boards. To renew five-year professional pupil services licenses issued by the Ohio Department of Education in these areas, educators must maintain their respective professional board licenses. By doing so, they meet all Ohio Department of Education renewal requirements and, therefore, do not need to work through the LPDC. These educators renew their licenses by submitting renewal applications with proof of current professional board licensure directly to the Ohio Department of Education.
- While Ohio Department of Education-licensed school counselors and school psychologists are not required to maintain concurrent professional licensure through the Ohio Counselor, Social Workers and

Marriage and Family Therapy Board (counselors) or the Ohio State Board of Psychology (psychologists), some individuals do hold both the Department license and a professional board license. Holders of five-year professional pupil services licenses for school counselor or school psychologist issued by the Department who also hold corresponding professional board licenses may renew the Department license based on maintaining licensure through the respective professional licensure board and do not need to work through an LPDC. Holders of five-year professional school counselor or school psychologist licenses issued by the Department who do not maintain concurrent professional board licenses are required to work through the LPDC to renew their Department licenses.

- Educators working under the four-year Resident Educator license do not work through the LPDC. These individuals apply directly to the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Educator Licensure to renew, extend or advance their licenses.
- Educators holding two-year provisional licenses do not work through the LPDC. These individuals apply directly to the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Educator Licensure to transition to Resident Educator Licenses or advance to five-year professional licenses.
- Educators holding alternative Resident Educator licenses, including career-technical workforce development teachers, do not work through the LPDC. These individuals apply directly to the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Educator Licensure to renew, extend or advance their licenses.
- Educators holding alternative principal licenses, alternative administrative specialist licenses or alternative superintendent licenses do not work through the LPDC. These individuals apply directly to the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Educator Licensure to renew, extend or advance their licenses.
- Educators holding one-year temporary pupil services licenses do not work through the LPDC. These individuals apply directly to the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Educator Licensure to renew their temporary licenses or to advance to standard licenses in the areas in which their temporary licenses were held.
- Educators holding one-year supplemental teaching licenses do not work through the LPDC. These individuals apply directly to the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Educator Licensure to renew their supplemental licenses or to advance to the standard licenses in the areas in which their supplemental licenses were held.
- Educators holding permanent teaching certificates or permanent non-tax certificates are required by state law to update their FBI criminal background checks every five years through the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI). In addition, updated BCI background checks are required if certificate holders have lived outside Ohio within the past five years.

As background checks expire, educators who wish to continue teaching should get these updated and ensure the results are sent directly to the Ohio Department of Education. If a certificate becomes inactive but the educator later successfully passes required background checks, the Department will re-activate the license upon receiving the report.

**Once an educator obtains a professional license in the area, regular LPDC procedures apply to the renewal of that professional license.*

Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP)

Ohio Administrative Code Rule 3301-24-08 states, “Each educator wishing to fulfill the license renewal requirements is responsible for the design of an individual professional development plan, subject to the approval of the local professional development committee.”

To ensure all appropriate professional development activities may be considered to meet renewal requirements, the Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) should be written and submitted to the LPDC for approval as soon as possible after the issuance of the license to be renewed. After an approved IPDP is on file, the LPDC can grant credit for professional development activities in accordance with the LPDC’s Plan of Operation. A license has an effective year always beginning on July 1 and an issuance date indicating when the Ohio Department of Education issues the license (which may precede the effective date).

To qualify for licensure renewal, the educator must complete one or a combination of the following:

- Six semester hours of coursework related to classroom teaching or the area of licensure;
- Eighteen continuing education units (CEUs), which represent 180 contact hours of professional development OR engagement in equivalent other activities (EOAs) related to classroom teaching or the area of licensure as approved by the LPDC of the employing school, district or agency since the issuance of the license to be renewed.

The primary responsibility of the LPDC is to review educators’ Individual Professional Development Plans and ensure the identified goals and strategies are relevant to the needs of the district, school, students and educator. Such decisions should be based on the committee’s local criteria and be aligned to the Ohio Standards for Professional Development. To ensure educators engage in appropriate professional development activities, **the IPDP must be submitted and approved prior to beginning the coursework or activities for which the educator seeks approval.**

The development of IPDPs allows educators to have flexibility in selection of personally meaningful coursework, workshops and professional development, provided all content aligns with district goals and the Ohio Standards for Professional Development.

Not all professional development need be college courses or workshops. The following equivalent other activities (EOAs) fall under the category of professional development:

- Conference
- Single workshop
- Professional learning team/community involvement
- Independent study/action research
- Professional educational organization activities
- District leadership team, LPDC, curriculum development, school improvement
- Coaching/mentoring student teachers, new teachers or teachers in need
- Activities leading to Master Teacher/National Board certification

LPDCs across the state continue to make decisions about licensure renewal. Educators determine and set their own professional goals. By consulting the [Standards for Ohio Educators](#), educators can make informed decisions regarding their professional growth across a developmental continuum from proficient to accomplished to distinguished.

The Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) identifies an educator’s goals for learning. The process of preparing and submitting an IPDP requires educators to do the following:

- Examine their practice; (self-assessment, including the Resident Educator program, Ohio Teacher Evaluation System, Ohio Principal Evaluation System)
- Determine individual priorities and goals;
- Complete the IPDP according to LPDC policy; and
- Obtain pre-approval from the LPDC (per district policy).

LPDCs should provide educators all the materials required to prepare an acceptable IPDP. The Ohio Department of Education provides IPDP templates and supporting documents on the web. Though LPDCs are not obligated to use these forms, LPDCs should ensure their forms align to the Ohio Standards for Professional Development and require educators to examine their own practice against the appropriate set of educator standards.

Educators are responsible to maintain their IPDPs and any required documentation for activity and course approval. *Keep copies of all materials submitted to the LPDC.*

It is the educator’s responsibility to complete the IPDP and its accompanying professional development according to the LPDC’s policies and timelines. Be aware of the LPDC’s meeting schedule and plan your submissions accordingly.

Timely Submission of Applications

Upon determination by the LPDC that all requirements for renewal have been met, the applicant must apply for renewal through his/her SAFE account — applicants must indicate the LPDC’s IRN or name within the online application. More information, as well as the link to the state’s SAFE system, is [available on this page](#).

This process can start as early as Nov. 1 of the in which year the educator’s license expires.

Administrators, School Treasurers, School Business Managers, Supervisors

When an administrator’s coursework plan is being discussed or voted upon, the LPDC shall, at the request of one of its administrative members, cause a majority of the committee to consist of administrative members by reducing the number of teacher members voting on the plan.

Renewal or Transition After Retirement or Termination of Employment

When an educator retires or leaves the district, the former district will provide verification of the IPDP approval, including coursework and continuing education that is completed and accepted. It is the educator’s responsibility to request and retain the approved and signed [Verification Form for Educators Leaving an Ohio LPDC](#) and submit it to the new LPDC at the time of employment in the new district. If the educator is no longer working through an LPDC, the educator should submit it to the Ohio Department of Education at the time of application for renewal.

Completed professional development activities approved by an LPDC must be honored by other LPDCs and by the Ohio Department of Education. If the plan was not completed in total, a new plan to address the period remaining in the renewal cycle must be written and approved by the new LPDC. If the educator is not working through an LPDC, the remaining credits must be completed by taking coursework at a college or university prior to application to the Ohio Department of Education.

Renewal Requirements for Expired Licenses (and Certificates)

Professional and associate licenses that have lapsed for *up to five years* due to not meeting professional development requirements may be reinstated upon completion of nine semester hours of coursework relevant to classroom or the area of licensure since the issuance of the license to be renewed.

Professional and associate licenses that have lapsed for *more than five years* due to not meeting professional development requirements may be reinstated upon completion of 12 semester hours of coursework relevant to classroom or the area of licensure since the issuance of the license to be renewed.

Glossary

Administrator – An individual working under the following certificate or license:

- Superintendent License, Superintendent Certificate or Local Superintendent Certificate;
- Assistant Superintendent Certificate;
- Principal License, Principal Certificate;
- Vocational Director License, Vocational Director Certificate;
- Educational Administrative Specialist Certificate;
- Administrative Specialist License;
- Supervisor Certificate;
- Vocational Supervisor Certificate;
- Treasurer License; and
- Business Manager License.

Note: For purposes of meeting the requirements in ORC 3301-24-08 regarding the composition of LPDCs when discussing or voting upon administrators' coursework plans, school treasurers and school business managers are included in this category.

Approved Institution – A college or university that has been approved for the preparation of teachers, administrators and school employees in pupil personnel services by the State Board of Education.

Appeal Process – The process by which an educator can have the decision of an LPDC reviewed.

CEU – A Continuing Education Credit is 10 professional development contact hours approved by a LPDC. Professional development providers *do not* award CEUs, LPDCs do. Professional development providers should supply their participants with certificates of the *contact hours* of the professional development experience.

Consortium – Two or more school districts or educational agencies joined together to establish a LPDC and share responsibilities for the LPDC work.

Contact Hours – The direct clock hours spent engaged in a professional development activity.

Chartered Nonpublic School – A nonpublic school that operates under applicable State Board of Education rules and is chartered by the State Board of Education.

Educator – An individual certified or licensed by the State Board of Education to teach or practice in Ohio's schools.

EOA (Equivalent Other Activity) – A professional development activity other than college or university courses, seminars and workshops.

HQPD (High-Quality Professional Development) – The acronym identifying the standard for Ohio professional development, as delineated in the Ohio Standards for Professional Development.

IPDP (Individual Professional Development Plan) – The document prepared by individual educators as a record of personal professional development goals and as a document of their achievements.

Issue date vs. effective date – All Ohio certificates and licenses have an EFFECTIVE date of July 1. The effective date is the beginning of the validity period or duration of the license. The ISSUE date is the date that a license is actually issued to an educator. An issue date may be any business day as licensure applications are processed and issued continuously throughout the year.

Lead Professional Educator License – The lead professional educator license, issued to those who meet the degree requirement, experience and demonstration of practice outlined in the Four-Tiered Teacher Licensure Structure, shall be valid for five years and shall be renewable.

Permanent Certificate – A permanent certificate is an educator credential that was issued under former law that is valid for the lifetime of the certificate holder unless it is limited, suspended or revoked under ORC 3319.31.

Professional Certificate – An educator credential issued by the State Board of Education through 2003 to an individual who is deemed to be qualified, under the 1987 *Teacher Education and Certification Standards*, to teach or practice in Ohio's schools.

Professional License – The professional or associate license that is valid for five years and may be renewed by an individual currently employed in a school or school district upon verification that the requirements listed in paragraph (A1) and (A2) of Ohio Administrative Code 3301-24-08 have been completed since the issuance of the license to be renewed.

Provisional License – Ohio's former initial beginning teacher license. New provisional licenses are no longer issued but may be renewed if already held.

Resident Educator License/Alternative Resident Educator License – Ohio's initial beginning teacher license may be extended or renewed by the Ohio Department of Education on a case-by-case basis to enable the license holder to complete the Ohio Resident Educator program.

Senior Professional Educator License – The senior professional educator license, issued to those who meet the degree requirement, experience and demonstration of practice outlined in the Four-Tiered Teacher Licensure Structure, shall be valid for five years and shall be renewable.

Standards for Ohio Educators – Three sets of standards (Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession, Ohio Standards for Principals and Ohio Standards for Professional Development) adopted by the State Board of Education in 2005 to focus the goals and objectives of educators as they seek to improve the profession.

Teacher Education and Licensure Standards – The Ohio Teacher Education and Licensure Standards are sections of the Ohio Administrative Code and Ohio Revised Code that establish requirements for educator preparation and licensing. Included in the standards are requirements for obtaining and maintaining all available types of educator credentials including teaching, administrator and pupil services credentials, permits, alternative credentials, and substitute and temporary credentials. Administrative rules are reviewed on an ongoing basis, and the State Board of Education may revise these rules periodically or create new ones in response to recommendations from the Ohio Department of Education, Educator Standards Board, and/or other education stakeholders.