

Advanced Professional Education Certificate

The Advanced Professional Education Certificate is available starting January 1, 2017 and is valid for up to 5 years. This certificate recognizes completion of an approved Teacher Leader program or certification through the [National Board for Professional Teaching Standards](#), as well as effective/highly effective annual evaluation ratings. The Advanced Professional Education Certificate is intended to be an indication of an educator's advanced skills and training in master teaching and/or teacher leadership. However, school districts approach assignments and benefits associated with the certificate differently; therefore, we encourage you to talk with your school and district leaders about your district's approach.

Requirements:

- Hold a Professional Education Certificate
- Received highly effective ratings for 3 out of the 5 most recent end of school year annual evaluations under MCL 380.1249*
- Not been rated ineffective within the 5 most recent end of school year annual evaluations under MCL 380.1249*
 - *Ratings will be available to view in educator [MOECS](#) accounts beginning mid-August 2016.
- Completed an approved Michigan Teacher Leader program or have earned certification through the [National Board for Professional Teaching Standards](#)
- Completed ongoing professional learning as required for renewal of the Professional Educator Certificate, including any combination of the following totaling 150 hours, with 1 semester credit hour being equivalent to 25 hours of State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECH) or 25 hours of annual District Provided Professional Development (DPPD) since the issue date of the most recent certificate and within the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the application:
 - Satisfactory college semester credit hours appropriate to the grade level and endorsement or endorsements of the certificate at a regionally accredited college or university.
 - Michigan SCECH in approved professional development activities appropriate to the grade level and endorsement or endorsements of the certificate.
 - Michigan annual DPPD under section 1527 of 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1527, completed through professional development programs that are appropriate to the grade level and endorsement or endorsements of the certificate.

For additional information on educator evaluations and ratings, please visit the [educator evaluations website](#) or email questions to MDE-EdEvals@michigan.gov.

For additional information on progression and renewal of educator certificates, please visit the [Office of Professional Preparation Services' website](#) or email questions directly to MOECSSupport@michigan.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I apply for the Advanced Professional Certificate?

Once the requirements for the Advanced Professional Certificate have been met, application is made through the [Michigan Online Educator Certification System \(MOECS\)](#).

Prior to submitting an application in MOECS, all completed professional learning requirements must be entered or viewable in the "View Professional Learning" tab. It is also important to verify that the appropriate effectiveness ratings were imported from the database schools use to report educator effectiveness ratings. Questions regarding the ratings viewable (or not viewable) in an individual's MOECS account should be directed back to the employing school or school district.

2. Where can I find an approved teacher leader program?

[National Board for Professional Teaching Standards](#)

The following institutions are approved to offer the Teacher Leader Program:

[Adrian College](#)

[Madonna University](#)

[Oakland University](#)

[Network of Michigan Educators](#)

3. Does the process to obtain an Advanced Professional Certificate cost money?

Yes. The National Board Teaching Certificate Programs and Teacher Leader programs are fee-based programs. Additionally, the certificate has a state-issued application fee and five year renewal fees.

4. What are the advantages to holding the Advanced Professional Certificate?

This certificate serves as an indicator that you have completed an approved Teacher Leader program or certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, as well as effective/highly effective annual evaluation ratings. Individual districts determine how they will require, reward or incentivize the Advanced Professional certificate, just as with other certificate types.

5. Can I obtain this certificate if I hold a Permanent, Life or Continuing certificate?

Yes. However, unlike the Permanent, Life or Continuing certificates, this certificate requires criteria for renewal every five years. Obtaining this certificate will put the holder on the renewal track requiring professional learning hours every five years.

6. Is the Advanced Professional Certificate mandatory, or can I just renew my Professional Certificate?

The Advanced Professional Certificate is NOT mandatory.

7. If I teach in a preschool or nonpublic school, how will I be evaluated in order to apply for the Advanced Professional Certificate?

The Michigan Department of Education, in coordination with nonpublic and early childhood stakeholders, are working out the details of how this affects nonprofessional certificate holders who are not working in K-12 public schools, and wish to progress to an Advanced Professional Certificate. We hope to provide additional information soon.