

EDUCATOR LICENSE RENEWAL

All Professional Educator Licenses must be renewed every five years.

Significant Provisions

- Professional Licenses (if you have only one) issued or renewed after Dec. 1, 1999, require 150 PDPs for renewal, at least 90 in content and at least 120 in content and pedagogy. Additional licenses require 30 PDPs in content.
- For employed educators, recertification IPDPs must be: approved by a supervisor within three months of a Professional License being issued or renewed; reviewed at least once every two years, and endorsed for completion prior to renewal application.

Definitions

- Advanced Academic Study: upper-level undergraduate course (or equivalent) where content is new to the educator, or graduate-level course (or equivalent) or program approved by the Department of Education.
- Content Area: academic discipline/subject matter of certificate.
- District Professional Development Plan: delineates district goals; includes School Improvement Plan goals; defines activities through which staff will meet professional growth and recertification requirements, including no-cost options and specific content to be addressed; sets forth a professional development budget; includes district's professional development offerings.
- Individual Professional Development Plan: the educator's five-year plan that outlines professional activities for purposes of professional license renewal.
- No-Cost Option: Massachusetts law requires that educators have available a no-cost way to renew their licenses. The Department of Education has charged districts with this responsibility.
- Pedagogy: teaching methods.
- Primary License: When an educator holds more than one Professional License, he or she designates one as the "primary" license, usually the one under which the educator is working.
- Professional Development Point (PDP): unit created to measure professional development activities—
 - ✓ 1 clock hour = 1 PDP.
 - ✓ 1 semester hour or 1 undergraduate credit = 15 PDPs.
 - ✓ 1 Continuing Education Unit (CEU) = 10 PDPs.
 - ✓ Advanced Academic Study = 1.5 PDPs/clock hour.
- Topic: A single or tightly integrated area of study within an academic discipline or related to a particular method of teaching or administration.

For more information on the Massachusetts Department of Education's recertification regulations and guidelines, or to see an example of a completed Individual Professional Development Plan, go to the MTA Web page at <http://www.massteacher.org> or the DOE Web site at <http://www.doe.mass.edu>.