

TEACHER OF THE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING WITH SIGN LANGUAGE COMMUNICATION CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY (ENDORSEMENT CODE: 2423)

Please print this page before you apply.

This endorsement entitles the holder to teach **deaf or hard of hearing students using sign language communication strategies** in all public schools.

In order to be eligible for the Certificate of Eligibility (CE), you will need to meet the following:

Instructional Certification

- The Deaf or Hard of Hearing: Sign Language Communication endorsement is not a standalone certificate. You need to hold a CE, CEAS, or standard NJ instructional certificate with an endorsement appropriate to the subject or grade level to be taught. If you have not yet applied for instructional certification, please see the NJ DOE website at <http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/license/certandend.htm> for details and a listing of instructional endorsements.

Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI)

- Current regulations require applicants for the Teacher of Deaf or Hard of Hearing: Sign Language Communication endorsement to achieve a score of intermediate or above on the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI). This test was formerly known as the Sign Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI). Testing information can be obtained from the New Jersey School for the Deaf, West Trenton, by contacting Kim Arrigo at kim.arrigo@mksd.org. The Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) is offered by a team of professionals trained to administer the assessment. Inquire on fee for assessment.

Praxis II Test Requirement

- **There is no Praxis test requirement for this certificate.**

Basic Skills Assessment Requirement (Effective September 1, 2015)

- All candidates must pass a Commissioner-approved test of basic skills, or score in the top one-third percentile on the SAT, ACT, or GRE for the year the test was taken. The top one-third percentile score for each test, for each year the data is available, is posted to the Department's website at: <http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/rpr/preparation/BasicSkillsExemptionCutScores.pdf>
- Please go to <http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/license/1112.pdf> for testing details. Official scores must be presented directly from Educational Testing Service to the NJ Department of Education. Only official scores are accepted. **The New Jersey Department of Education code (R7666) and your Social Security number must appear on your test score report in order to be accepted. Please submit a copy of your test score report if you have taken the appropriate exam.**

24 Hour Requirement

- Effective October 31, 2009, eligibility for the elementary school Certificate of Eligibility or instructional area Certificate of Eligibility requires candidates to demonstrate knowledge of basic pedagogical skills appropriate to the area of endorsement prior to the issuance of a certificate. The requirement may be met through successful completion of a minimum of 24 hours of study offered through a state-approved provider or through approved coursework at a NJ State-approved college as documented on a transcript. If submitting a Certificate of Completion for the 24 hour pre-service to meet this requirement, only original documentation will be accepted. Do not send copies or faxes. Please go to <http://www.state.nj.us/education/educators/license/advisories/applicant.htm> for details and a list of approved courses and providers. (Exceptions: Holders of a CEAS, provisional or standard certificate in another instructional area are exempt from this requirement.)

Fee Information

- The current cost of the certificate is \$170.
- **No checks or money orders will be accepted**
- Please make the payment online at <http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/license/epay.htm>.
- **Please notify your examiner after payment has been made.**
- If you apply and are denied, you will be charged a fee of \$70.
- **All fees, including money left on file, are nonrefundable**

Online Certificate Information

- All information about certificates is now available online, including certificate name, certificate ID number, date of issuance, and expiration date if applicable. Instructions to view this information can be found at www.state.nj.us/education/educators/license/tcis/instructions.pdf.
- In order to make certification information available more quickly, this information will appear on our website in lieu of the issuance of paper certificates. Additionally, the move to electronic certificates will save costs associated with printing and mailing, as many of our neighboring states have discovered. **Therefore, as of May 15, 2015, paper certificates will no longer be issued.**

IF YOU HAVE MET THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS, [CLICK HERE](#) TO APPLY ONLINE.

Applicant Checklist:

You cannot complete the entire application process online. After applying online, please submit ALL necessary documentation together **IN A SINGLE PACKET** to the NJ DOE in order to complete your application. Please put your tracking number or Social Security number on all documents that you send to our office. For this particular certificate, you will need to send in the following:

- Oath of allegiance/verification of accuracy form. (Available here: <http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/license/forms/verify.pdf>)
- Official transcripts noting degree conferral and all other relevant transcripts. If possible, please have transcripts sent to you first and then forward them in the sealed envelope(s) together with any other documents.
- Copies of your Praxis test score report (Not necessary if you have not taken the Praxis test. See above for details.)
- Fee of \$170 if not paid online. Fees are payable online or by a money order, certified check, or personal check made out to the "COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION".