

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND FACT SHEET 1: HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHER

The No Child Left Behind act requires that all public school teachers be or become highly qualified in the core academic content areas they teach.

- The timeframe for compliance with this requirement is as follows:
 - New, newly-hired, and veteran teachers in non-Title I schools must satisfy the Highly Qualified Teacher requirements by the end of the 2005-2006 school year.
 - New and newly-hired teachers in Title I school-wide and targeted assistance programs must satisfy the Highly Qualified Teacher requirements at the time of hire.
 - Veteran teachers in Title I school-wide and targeted assistance programs must satisfy the Highly Qualified Teacher requirements by the end of the 2005-2006 school year.

- What teachers need to satisfy the Highly Qualified Teacher requirements:
 - Have at least a Bachelor's degree
 - Have valid state certification for which no requirements have been waived (*i.e.*, no emergency certificates)
 - Demonstrate content expertise in the core academic subject(s) they teach.

- How teachers demonstrate **content** expertise:
 - Elementary:
 - Pass a rigorous state test (*i.e.* NTE or PRAXIS II) **or**
 - Document 10 points on the NJ HOUSE standard (not an option for new teachers in Title I schools)

 - Middle or Secondary:
 - Pass the appropriate state test for the subjects they teach (*i.e.* NTE or PRAXIS II) **or**
 - Successfully complete an undergraduate major, coursework equivalent to an undergraduate major (30 credit sequence of courses), a graduate degree, or advanced certification (*i.e.* National Board Certification) for each core academic subject teaching assignment **or**
 - Document 10 points on the NJ HOUSE standard (not an option for new teachers in Title I schools)

- **Information for Special Education teachers**
 - Special Education teachers who provide direct instruction in elementary (K-5) settings must satisfy the federal definition of a Highly Qualified teacher at the elementary level.

- Special Education teachers in self-contained classes in grades 6-8 must satisfy the federal definition of a Highly Qualified teacher at the elementary level.
 - Middle (departmentalized) and secondary Special Education teachers must satisfy the Highly Qualified teacher criteria based on the *grade level of the curriculum* they teach rather than the chronological age of the students. This may mean satisfying elementary, middle, and/or secondary levels.
 - The requirements for Special Education teachers who provide consultation and support (either in-class or pull-out) or who team teach with a content area instructor in general education settings are not yet final. Once final reauthorization for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) occurs, these requirements will be determined.
 - In Resource Centers at the middle and high school level, teachers must be Highly Qualified in all content areas that they teach.
- NJ High Objective Uniform State Evaluation (HOUSE):
 - Veteran teachers who do not satisfy the federal definition of a Highly Qualified teacher can complete a Content Knowledge Matrix to determine whether they satisfy the criteria using the HOUSE Standard.
 - Teachers who do not yet document 10 points on the NJ HOUSE Standard Content Knowledge Matrix have until the end of the 2005-2006 school year to earn 10 points.
 - New and newly-hired teachers in Title I school-wide and targeted assistance programs are not able to use the HOUSE Standard to satisfy the Highly Qualified teacher requirements.
 - Core Academic Content Areas:
 - The New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards that align with the federal list of core academic subjects are: Language Arts Literacy, Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, World Languages, and Visual and Performing Arts.
 - Definitions:
 - New Teacher: Novice in his or her first year of teaching.
 - Newly Hired Teacher: Experienced teacher in his or her first year in a new district.
 - Veteran Teacher:
 - Title I Schools/Programs - One hired before 2002-2003;
 - Non-Title I Schools - One hired before 2005-2006

** This fact sheet was created with information from the New Jersey Department of Education's presentation, *New Jersey's Model For Highly Qualified Teachers: Identifying Excellence, Recognizing Achievement, Supporting Professional Learning* (Available: http://www.nj.gov/njded/profdev/hqt/pp_files/frame.htm) and from the publication, *The New Jersey Model for Identifying Highly Qualified Teachers* (Available: <http://www.nj.gov/njded/profdev/hqt/house.pdf>).