



Recent BSLTQ Updates

Update on Certification Fees

In accordance with [Act 47 of 2025](#), **standard certification fees have been reduced to no greater than \$50**. Under state law, the Pennsylvania Department of Education must collect a separate Professional Educator Discipline fee during the educator certification process, which is used to support the education profession. This fee has not been waived in Act 47.

Veterans and their spouses are exempt from both the standard certification fees and Professional Educator Discipline fee.

Beginning December 12th, the [new fee schedule](#) will go into effect for all applications. The fee schedule separates the certification fee from the educator discipline fee for further clarification.

Information for December 2025 Graduates Who Applied for Certification in TIMS Before December 12th, 2025

If you have December 2025 graduates who applied for certification on or after 11/12/2025 in TIMS, please have them contact the certification services email account at ra-edcertquestions@pa.gov for help with these applications. Please be sure to clarify to December graduates who applied and paid for certification on or after 11/12/2025 that their previous application can be withdrawn and refunded for the amount paid and that they can reapply to pay the new reduced certification fee.

New PK-6 Grade Spans

We've been receiving many questions about the new PK-6 grade spans. FAQs about the new PK-6 grade spans will be forthcoming. At this time, please be aware that EPPs cannot advertise, nor apply, for the new PK-6 grade spans until their program has been approved in accordance with the updated competencies. The Division of Professional Education and Teacher Quality is currently in the process of creating the new PK-6 competencies. This process is tentatively scheduled to be completed by June 2026. During this time, BSLTQ will be working with the State Board of Education and the Secretary of Education on approving a new Primary Certification (PK-6) test. Please be patient as we begin the process of making this exciting policy change.

While the Grades PK-6 competencies and tests are being created, Grades PK-4 and Grades 4-8 programs should continue at all approved EPP programs. Act 47 prohibits EPPs from admitting students under the current Early Childhood (PK-4) or Elementary/ Middle (4-8) certificates after July 1, 2028. As a result, fall 2027 should be the last semester that EPPs formally admit students into these current programs. This will allow students to obtain the required 48 credits and 3.0 GPA for entry into the EPP (students may also use the alternatives to admission under Chapter 354). Current assessments for Grades PK-4 and Grades 4-8 will be available for those students continuously enrolled in these programs until all students complete them.

Legislative Change to Inactive Certifications

Effective January 11, 2026 ([Section 1205.2](#)):

- There is no charge for a professional educator to apply to PDE for voluntary inactive certification.

- An educator with a **voluntary** inactive certificate can reactivate their certification if they provide PDE evidence that they received an offer of employment from a school that has committed to provide and ensure that the educator completes 30 hours of in-service continuing professional development within two years.
- Any educator with an inactive certification can be removed from inactive status if they apply to PDE and show that they completed at least 30 hours of continuing professional education within the past 18 months. Previously the requirement was 12 months.

New Accelerated Program for PK-12 Special Education Teacher Certification Grant

Please see the following message from PDE Bureau of Special Education and PaTTAN.

Dear Special Education Educator Prep Programs Faculty,

We are excited to announce cohort 3 of the Accelerated Program for PK-12 Special Education Teacher Certification Grant.

Purpose: The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Bureau of Special Education, is requesting applications from Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) who partner with one or more Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to provide individuals who currently hold bachelor's degrees an accelerated program with the required college/university coursework, summer field experiences, mentoring, coaching, and student teaching to obtain their PK-12 special education teaching certification in accordance with PA Public School Code Section 12-1207.1, Postbaccalaureate certification within an 18-month period.

Eligibility:

Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) in collaboration with one or more Local Education Agencies.

Funding:

- Up to \$100,000. Initial grant awards will be determined based on projected student enrollment submitted in the application. Final budget allocations may be adjusted following verification of spring 2026 rosters.
- All grant funds must be expended by December 31, 2027.
- The final reimbursement form is due no later than January 31, 2028.

Timeline:

- Application Opens: December 11, 2025
- Deadline: 11:59 PM on Sunday, February 1, 2026
- Awards Announced: February 2026

Application materials, including a recorded overview of the grant requirements, request for application (RFA), and a PDF of the application, are available on the [APR Repository - 2026-2027 PK 12 Accelerated Special Education Teacher Certification Grant](#).

Questions? Contact Meredith Penner, mpenner@pattankop.net.

Thank you for supporting accelerated certification opportunities for future PA special educators.

Update to CSPG 17 – Availability of Official Certification Records

[CSPG-17](#) has been updated to reflect availability of records online and through Right to Know; terminology, including the name of the Bureau; and legal references.

Currently, certification records are available via the TIMS system. Those who were certified prior to the TIMS system's creation can contact the Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality in writing to request copies of records. Also discussed in this CSPG is the following:

- Certificate records are a matter of public record on the [Search Educator Certification website](#).
- The Department also releases certification records used to document the eligibility of a holder for a specific certificate if requested by a third party subject to any applicable exceptions of the Right to Know (RTK) law. If

the Department should receive a subpoena duces tecum requesting certification records by a third party, the bureau will attempt to notify the certificate holder of the receipt of such subpoena as required pursuant to 22 Pa. Code § 49.13(b)(12).

Please view additional information in this flyer.

Ask Carissa

Lorraine Brandenburger, Assistant Dean of the School of Education at Arcadia University asked: “To use the GPA allowance for add on testing, do the tests have to be taken after November 3, 2025?”

Answer: **The tests do not have to be taken after November 3. The application must be submitted on or after November 3.**

Thank you and have a good weekend!



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