

50 State Comparison: Teacher License Reciprocity

Key Takeaways and specific questions

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<https://www.ecs.org>



NASDTEC
National Association of State Directors
of Teacher Education and Certification

<https://www.ecs.org/50-state-comparison-teacher-license-reciprocity/>

“Teacher license reciprocity allows educators who hold a teaching license in one state to earn a license in another state, subject to meeting state-specific requirements. Reciprocity agreements allow states to work through variations in licensing systems to coordinate license transfers and fill vacant teaching positions with qualified candidates. Most states have policies in place to extend reciprocity for certain teachers, but few states provide full reciprocity for all fully licensed teachers from other states

Click on the questions below to access 50-State Comparisons for each data point, current as of June 2020. Or, choose to view a specific state’s approach by visiting the [individual state profiles](#) page.”

“Key Takeaways”

- “Eight states offer full teacher license reciprocity for all eligible, fully licensed teachers. Therefore in these states, fully licensed out-of-state teachers, regardless of experience, are immediately eligible to receive a standard teaching license and are subject to few or no additional requirements.
- Thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia differentiate requirements for experienced and inexperienced teachers, limiting licensure barriers for candidates meeting established experience requirements. Thirteen states and the District of Columbia require candidates with classroom experience to provide evidence of effectiveness in past performance, oftentimes limiting barriers for candidates who can demonstrate prior success.
- Thirty-one states require some or all out-of-state teacher candidates to take additional coursework or training prior to entering a classroom or within a certain number of years of teaching. In addition, Forty-three states and the District of Columbia require that some or all out-of-state teacher candidates take additional assessments.
- Thirty-eight states offer special reciprocity for military spouses.”

“50-State Comparisons” – the following questions and answers are taken verbatim from the website except the totals for YES or NO.

1. [State licensure websites](#)

View the full 50-State Comparison: Teacher License Reciprocity [here](#).

2. [Has the state signed the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement?](#)

The [National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification](#) (NASDTEC) facilitates license reciprocity for member states that have signed the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement. The NASDTEC Interstate Agreement is a collection of individual agreements by member states pledging to “issue some form of authorization allowing an inbound certificate holder to legally teach or provide service in the receiving state, provided the license issued by the ‘sending’ state is acceptable under the agreement.” NASDTEC does not guarantee “full teacher license reciprocity” for member states but does help clarify which licenses will transfer and what additional requirements must be met. Forty-seven states and the District of Columbia have signed the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement. View the full 50-State Comparison: Teacher License Reciprocity [here](#)

All except 3: NM, NY, SD

3. **Does the state have full reciprocity by statute for out-of-state teachers?**

Eight states offer full teacher license reciprocity for all eligible, fully licensed teachers. In these states, fully licensed out-of-state teachers, regardless of experience, are immediately eligible to receive a standard teaching license and are subject to few or no additional requirements. Many more states provide full reciprocity to experienced candidates, candidates with advanced credentials or candidates who have obtained National Board Certification. View the full 50-State Comparison: Teacher License Reciprocity [here](#).

YES = AZ, FL, HI, IL, MS, MO, NV, OK

NO = AL, AK, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, DC, GA, ID, IN, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MT, NE, NH, NJ, NY, NC, ND, OH, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI, WY

4. **Does the state require out-of-state teachers to take additional coursework?**

Thirty-one states require that some or all out-of-state teacher candidates take additional coursework or training prior to entering a classroom, or within a certain number of years of teaching. Of these states, nine states provide a test-out or other exemption option for coursework requirements. View the full 50-State Comparison: Teacher License Reciprocity [here](#).

NO = AL, CO, DE, DC, FL, HI, KS, MI, MS, MO, NH, NJ, NM, OK, OR, RI, SC, TN, TX, WV,

YES = AK, AZ, AR, CA, CT, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MN, MT, NE, NV, NY, NC, ND, OH, PA, SD, UT, VT, VA, WA, WI, WY

5. **Does the state require out-of-state teachers to take additional assessments?**

Forty-three states and the District of Columbia require that some or all out-of-state teacher candidates take additional assessments prior to entering a classroom, or within a certain number of years of teaching. View the full 50-State Comparison: Teacher License Reciprocity [here](#).

NO = AZ, FL, HI, MS, MO, NV, OK,

Yes = AL, AK, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, DC, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MT, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI, WY,

6. Does the state have different requirements based on candidate experience or effectiveness?

Thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia have different requirements for experienced and inexperienced teachers, limiting licensure barriers for candidates meeting established experience requirements. Thirteen states and the District of Columbia require candidates with classroom experience to provide evidence of effectiveness in past performance, oftentimes limiting barriers for candidates who can demonstrate success. View the full 50-State Comparison: Teacher License Reciprocity [here](#).

NO = AZ, FL, ID, ME, MA, MS, MO, NV, NC, OK, RI, TN, VT

Yes = AL, AK, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, DC, GA, HI, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, MD, MI, MN, MT, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NY, ND, OH, OR, PA, SC, SD, TX, UT, WA, WV, WI, WY

7. Does the state provide special reciprocity for out-of-state teachers with advanced credentials?

Thirty states and the District of Columbia provide special licensure reciprocity for out-of-state teachers with advanced credentials, exempting these candidates from additional coursework or assessment requirements and oftentimes immediately granting them a standard or advanced license. View the full 50-State Comparison: Teacher License Reciprocity [here](#).

NO = AK, AZ, ID, IN, LA, ME, MD, MA, MN, MT, NE, NY, ND, OK, RI, UT, VT, WI, *WY

*N/A. Wyoming does not have a tiered licensure system.

Yes = AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, DC, FL, GA, HI, IA, KS, KY, MI, MS, MO, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NC, OH, OR, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, VA, WA, WV

8. Does the state provide special reciprocity (or other supports) for military spouses?

Thirty-eight states provide special licensure reciprocity or supports for military spouses. View the full 50-State Comparison: Teacher License Reciprocity [here](#).

NO = AK, AZ, DE, DC, FL, ID, IL, KS, MT, NH, RI, VT,

Yes = AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, GA, HI, IN, IA, KY, LA, MA, MI, MN, MS, NE, NV, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WV, WI, WY

9. [All data points for all states](#)

View the full 50-State Comparison: Teacher License Reciprocity [here](#).

Related Resources

- [State Information Request: Addressing Teacher Shortages Through Licensure Flexibility](#)
- [50-State Comparison: Teacher Recruitment and Retention](#)
- [50-State Comparison: Teacher Leadership and Licensure Advancement](#)
- [Targeted Teacher Recruitment](#) (Policy Snapshot)
- [Teacher Shortages: What We Know](#) (Policy Brief)

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