

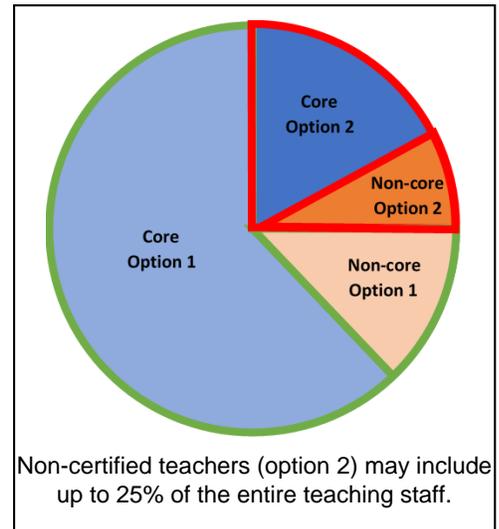


Charter School Educator Qualifications

Updated April 2016

The Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the SC Charter Schools Act allow charter schools some flexibility in educator qualifications. This document describes the minimum requirements that all charter school teachers must meet.

- The charter school must adhere to any specific qualifications described in its approved charter application if those qualifications go above and beyond what is listed in this document.
- At least 75% of teachers in the school must hold a valid SC teaching certificate in the subject area being taught.
- At least one administrator must be certified or experienced in the field of school administration.
- Teachers in **core academic subjects** have two ways to be allowable per charter school law. The core academic subjects are: English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics, government, economics, history, geography, dance, art, and music. Special education teachers who provide the primary instruction in a core academic subject must also meet these requirements. Core-content teachers are allowable if they:
 - (Core Option 1) hold a valid SC teaching certificate in the subject area being taught, OR
 - (Core Option 2) have earned at least a bachelor's degree in the subject area.
- Teachers in **non-core academic subjects** also have two options to be allowable per charter school law. The non-core academic subjects are physical education, health education, drama, career and technology education, driver education, and supplementary instruction in special education. Non-core teachers are allowable if they:
 - (Non-core Option 1) hold a valid SC teaching certificate in the subject area, OR
 - (Non-core Option 2) have completed at least one year at an accredited college or university and document content knowledge in the subject area by:
 - passing the appropriate Praxis exam, or
 - holding at least a bachelor's degree in the subject area, or
 - 30 credit hours in the subject area (21 of which are 300 level or above), or
 - 24 credit hours in the subject area at the graduate level.



Sample Scenarios

Scenario 1: Teacher A has a bachelor's degree in Science and has passed the Praxis for Physical Education. He is teaching Biology and PE. He is allowable (Core Option 2) for Biology and is also allowable (Non-core Option 2) for PE.

Scenario 2: Teacher B has a master's degree in History and has passed the Praxis for Secondary English. She is teaching US History and English 1. She would be allowable (Core Option 2) for History. However, she is NOT allowable for English, because teachers in core academic subjects must hold a valid SC teaching certificate or have earned at least a bachelor's degree in the subject area being taught. Her degree is in History, not English. The Praxis is not sufficient for core academic subjects.

Scenario 3: All of the teachers in a school have at least a bachelor's degree in the subjects they teach and have passed the appropriate Praxis exams, however, none of them hold SC teaching certificates. While each of the teachers would be considered allowable under Option 2, the school would be in noncompliance because no more than 25% of a school's teachers can be allowable under Option 2. At least 75% must hold valid SC teaching certificates.

Scenario 4: Teacher C is certified in Special Education. He is teaching core academic subjects to three students with disabilities in a self-contained setting and provides supplementary support to six students in a resource setting. He IS allowable (Non-core Option 1) for the resource setting but is NOT allowable for the self-contained setting because he would also need credentials for the content area(s).

Scenario 5: Teacher D is a registered nurse and is teaching Health. She would be allowable (Non-core Option 2).