

General “Highly Qualified” Requirements

The U.S. Department of Education and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 require all core academic subject teachers be “highly qualified.” The term “core academic subject” is defined as: English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, social studies (history, geography, economics, civics, and government), the arts (music, visual arts, theater), and special education.

To become “highly qualified”, a teacher must hold a clear Nevada teaching license, in the appropriate area. A clear teaching license is defined as free of the following provisions:

- Coursework provisions that are attached to the core subject,
- The Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST),
- The Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) test, and
- The Specialty Area test.

Additionally, to become “highly qualified” teachers must demonstrate competency in one of the following ways:

- Provide proof of passing the appropriate subject area test(s), or
- Provide a college/university transcript declaring or containing coursework equivalent to an academic major, or
- Meet the High Objective Uniform State Standards of Evaluation (HOUSSE) requirements.

The HOUSSE option requires teachers to submit evidence of:

- A master’s degree and three (3) years of verified teaching experience** or,
- Three (3) years of verified teaching experience** and 150 hours of professional development, or 10 semester college credits, or a combination of both.

** Teaching experience must include, or be prior to, 2002-2003 academic year for regular education teachers and can include any three years of teaching experience for special education teachers. Teaching experience must be grade level and subject area specific.

Special Education Teachers:

Special education teachers must hold a clear Nevada teaching license in the appropriate special education area, and

- Elementary special education teachers must provide proof of passing the elementary specialty area tests
- Middle school special education teachers must provide proof of passing the middle school or secondary specialty area test in the appropriate core area(s)
- High school special education teachers must provide proof of passing the secondary specialty area test in the appropriate core area(s), or
- Meet HOUSSE requirements (see above).

Clark County School District reimburses teachers, as funding is available, for successful completion of all required coursework and competency tests to meet “highly qualified” requirements. Teachers must obtain pre-approval from the Clark County School District Licensure Services Department.

Applicants with questions regarding “highly qualified” requirements may contact the Clark County School District Licensure Services Department, Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PST at 702-799-0052.