As we continue to respond to the ever-evolving COVID-19 public health emergency, we would like to provide teacher candidates with answers to some frequently-asked questions to help you navigate this challenging time.

NEW YORK STATE TEACHER CERTIFICATION

1. I'm not sure if I'll be able to be certified in time; what should I do?
NYSED recently issued emergency COVID-19 teacher certification extensions for teachers who were on track to be certified by September 2020. Candidates who are seeking certificates that require exams may be eligible for the Emergency COVID-19 certificate, allowing them to work in New York State public schools or districts for one year while taking and passing the required exams for the certificate they are seeking. You can find more information on the Emergency COVID-19 certificate here.

We still encourage you to submit your NYC Online Teacher Application to us as early as possible, because certification procedures can be completed while your application is being evaluated for inclusion in the New Teacher Finder. You should strongly consider applying for 2020-2021 teaching positions if you:

- Are completing a program at a college or university leading to New York State teaching certification by September 1, 2020, or;
- Already hold a current New York State teaching certificate

2. I still have questions about New York State certification; do you have more information?
New York State teacher certification requirements and procedures are determined at the state level and not by the City; you can learn more about certification from start to finish on the NYSED website here. If you are currently enrolled in a school of education or have recently graduated, we encourage you to consult your school's certification officer, as they can share information with you regarding your remaining requirements for certification. Your university can also share information regarding any changes to testing policies. If you are not currently enrolled in a university and are not yet certified, please consult the NYSED website.

Note that the COVID-19 emergency has impacted the services provided by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and you may expect delays in services, wait times, and responses.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Given budget reductions, will there still be job opportunities for teachers in NYC public schools? Should I apply?
As shared by Mayor de Blasio, the City of New York must take significant action in order to balance its budget. While our office does anticipate reductions to hiring, particularly outside of our high need subject areas (e.g. Science, Math, 7-12 Special Education, and Foreign Languages), we are continuously evaluating what our likely hiring needs will be. Despite this uncertainty, we still encourage candidates to apply and have their application considered for inclusion in the New Teacher Finder for the following reasons:

- First, candidates who pass our application process can have their resume visible in a system used by our 1,800 schools. As schools gain more clarity regarding their budget and hiring needs, they will be using the New Teacher Finder as a tool to conduct their hiring search.
- Second, as our office gains clarity regarding the City's hiring needs, we will be offering virtual hiring supports to principals and candidates. Candidates must pass our application screening process to be entered into the NTF to be eligible for any hiring support and updates from our office.
- Finally, submitting your application allows sufficient time for your application to be screened and evaluated. Our office receives upwards of 7,000 applications each year. Each year, hundreds of candidates are not able to access the New Teacher Finder, due to missing application materials. Submitting your application early ensures that our team will be able to screen your application in a timely fashion and notify you of any missing materials.

2. If I have already been in contact and interviewed/ conducted a demonstration lesson at a school, would the new budget plan influence previously conducted interviews and demo lessons?
Budgets and hiring policy have not yet been determined for the 2020-2021 school year and schools are not in a place to make any formal offers. Please reach out to the school where you were interviewed for an update on next steps as information is ever-changing.

3. **Will there be a hiring freeze for Childhood Education 1-6 certified teachers for the upcoming school year?**

Each year, the New York City Department of Education identifies subject areas in which hiring is restricted due to decreased need. Restrictions are subject to change and may be lifted if needs are identified for the upcoming year. While there is no official hiring policy for the 2020-2021 school year, we anticipate that there will likely be hiring restrictions, or at least minimal vacancies, in Childhood Education (Grades 1-6). If any vacancies are available, they are likely to be in the Bronx or Central Brooklyn.

We encourage teachers certified or on track to be certified in Childhood Education 1-6 to consider pursuing coursework to obtain an additional certificate or extension in:

- Early Childhood, Birth-Grade 2;
- Special Education, Grades 1-6; or
- Bilingual Extension

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**2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

**Are NYC DOE schools hiring teachers now?**

The City is in the process of finalizing its budget and its new teacher hiring policy for the next school year. We will post updates as more information becomes available.

Despite this uncertainty, we still encourage you to apply and have your application considered for inclusion in the New Teacher Finder; once the hiring needs of schools for next school year become available, you will be best positioned to take advantage of any opportunities and may be eligible to receive support and updates from our office. Submitting your application early ensures that our team will be able to screen your application in a timely fashion.

**Last year there was a hiring restriction on Childhood Education (Grades 1 to 6) teachers. Will that be the case again this year?**

Until budgets for the next school year are available, we will not know what the hiring policy for new teachers will be.

**Is there any additional information available for candidates pursuing Childhood certification?**

We encourage teachers certified or on track to be certified in Childhood Education 1-6 to consider pursuing coursework to obtain an additional certificate or extension in: Special Education, Grades 1-6, Early Childhood, Birth-Grade 2, or Bilingual Extension.