Welcome to our New York State Teacher Certification presentation!

The Office of Teacher Recruitment and Quality (TRQ) thanks you for your interest in teaching in a New York City public school, and your commitment to being a change agent for children receiving an education in New York City.

In addition to this informational presentation on NY State Teacher Certification, we strongly suggest that you review the information available on our website regarding additional modules that may be of interest to you.

We also encourage you to register and attend a general information session – or listen to the recorded version via our website. Please visit the “upcoming events” section on the homepage of www.teachnyc.net for more details.
Please note some important information about certification requirements.

The New York City Department of Education does not determine certification requirements.

For any and all questions about your certification eligibility and/or general certification questions please go directly to the New York State Education Department (or "NYSED") website at www.NYSED.gov which details certification requirements required by the Office of Teaching Initiatives.

In order to give you individualized feedback on your personal situation as it relates to becoming certified in NY State, NYSED will need to review your documentation via their certification application process.

It is highly recommended that once you read the specific eligibility requirements on their website for each unique certification you are interested in obtaining, and have gathered your documents together to prove you have met these requirements, that you apply directly to NYSED to see if you have complied with all their requirements or if there are any that you still must complete. Upon receiving your application and all required documentation, NYSED will review your application and provide feedback on which requirements you met or did not meet. This process can take time – sometimes months – so be prepared to apply sooner rather than later to ensure you can successfully complete your certification requirements.

Please note that the NYC Department of Education is not able to hire you as a full time teacher if you do not possess an appropriate teaching certification in the subject area and grade level you wish to be hired in.

Once you have submitted an application with the NYC Department of Education via www.teachnyc.net your current and future New York State certification information will be automatically transmitted to the NYC Department of Education.
In order to teach in New York State, you must complete a TEACH ONLINE application through the New York State Education Department. You must complete this application regardless of pathway; even if you are graduating from an approved Teacher Certification program, applying for Interstate Reciprocity, or applying for certification via an Individualized Evaluation. To create a TEACH account, please visit www.nysed.gov and follow the above pathway. From the screen found in this slide, you will be able to both create an account, as well as log back in and submit any materials, check your status, etc. Once you create a TEACH account you should ensure that you understand what pathway to certification you will be applying for and what requirements you need to show proof of having in order to obtain certification. This presentation will help you understand the different pathways to teacher certification.
As outlined, since all certificate subject areas and grade levels have their own NYSED coursework, workshop and testing requirements—all differentiated by applicable pathways—it is important for you to review the requirements in your pathway and certification subject area and grade level when completing your TEACH application. Understanding what the NYSED requirements are for your certification subject area, grade level and applicable pathway will allow you to prepare all required documents to be able to showcase you have met NYSED requirements when you apply. The NYSED will update your TEACH account to reflect approval of requirements you have met and to reflect requirements you still have to meet in order to obtain your certification. Once you have met all requirements the NYSED will note that you are certified on your TEACH account. It is important to keep viewing your TEACH account to check on your status with the NYSED as you submit additional required documentation. To look for the certification requirements please go to the home page of NYSED.gov and click on the tab labeled “Types of Certification and Licenses” to search for the detailed requirements for any certificate.
While this presentation is about the different NYSED certification pathway requirements and not about specific coursework requirements necessary to obtain each subject and grade level certification, it is important to note that as of May 2014 there are new teacher certification exams required by NYSED that affect all certification pathways.

All required NYSED teacher certification exams are administered by the New York State Teacher Certification Examinations, or NYSTCE. For all NYSTCE Frameworks and Information please go to www.nystce.nesinc.com/.

Candidates who have completed all requirements for initial certification and who apply for certification on or before April 30, 2014 will need to complete the exams highlighted in the current exams green box: Initial Teaching Assessment of Teaching Skills—Written (ATS–W); Liberal Arts and Sciences Test (LAST); and Current Content Specialty Tests (CST).

Candidates applying for certification on or after May 1, 2014—or candidates who applied for certification on or before April 30, 2014 but did not meet all the requirements for an initial certificate—will need to complete the exams highlighted in the current exams orange box: Initial Teaching edTPA; Educating All Students Test (EAS); Academic Literacy Skills Test (ALST); and Content Specialty Tests (CST).

Please visit the NYSTCE or NYSED websites for more information on all exams and certification and testing regulations.
The type of certification you have is dependent upon the pathway you took into education. In order to teach in our schools, you must possess a valid state credential, such as an Initial, Professional, Conditional Initial, or an Internship Certificate. All teachers who wish to begin teaching at the start of a given school year must be certified by the New York State Education Department by September 1 of that same year.

This certification presentation only focuses on traditional certification. An initial certificate is for candidates who have graduated from traditional education certification programs. Professional certification is for classroom teachers who have earned their MA and taught for at least 3 years. A Conditional Initial Certificate is for candidates who are certified via Interstate or International Reciprocity. A Conditional Initial certificate allows you 2 years to come into complete compliance with NYSED requirements for the specific subject area certification being applied for, in terms of test and workshop completion. An internship certificate is granted to individuals who have completed 50% of their certification program AND are offered a position at a school.

The other teacher certification pathways touched upon in this presentation are certificates that use pathways outside of the teacher preparation program pathway. Most applicants who embark upon getting these certifications are career changers who are either using their particular work experience in a trade to enter into the classroom to teach their trade; or are enrolled in an alternative certification program to learn how to teach; or who are college professors with a degree in a math or science STEM subject and are looking to teach that subject in grades 7-12.

Please note all teaching certifications have an issue date and let you know the time period during which the teaching certification is valid. Please make sure you keep your certifications updated/renewed or changed over to the next level certificate in a timely manner in keeping with the NYSED deadlines and requirements.
In order to obtain an internship certificate you must be enrolled in an NYSED approved Teacher Education Preparation program; have 50% of your teacher preparation program completed AND you must be offered a teaching position. If you meet all of the criteria mentioned above, your college/university may apply for an internship certificate on your behalf. The certificate will be valid for 2 years and it is nonrenewable. You have to complete your MA, all required exams and all workshops and required trainings during that 2 year period. You must also pass a background check and your fingerprints must clear as well. If you are interested in the internship certificate you should check with your certification office to see if they have any additional requirements in order for you to qualify as well.
There are various pathways to teacher certification however, we are focusing on the traditional paths to becoming an educator. In order to obtain initial certification you must complete an approved Teacher Certification program and pass all required NYSED exams and workshops. You must complete the edTPA, EAS, ALST and Revised CST(s) and for Bilingual teachers, you must pass the BEA. You must complete all workshops including the Child Abuse and School Violence prevention workshops as well as Training in Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination Prevention and Intervention and for certain subjects such as Students with Disabilities (SWD) – you must also complete coursework training in the Needs of Children with Autism.

For all certification subject areas you must also pass a background check and have your fingerprints cleared.
NYS no longer has a “permanent certification” for incoming teachers. Our teachers now receive professional certification which is our advanced level certificate. To obtain this certificate, teachers are required to hold an initial certificate (and thus, have completed the aforementioned workshops required for initial certification), have completed a Master’s degree and meet professional development requirements on a five year cycle. Once issued a professional certificate, you must simply continue to meet the professional development hours every five years to maintain your license. Professional development cycles start in July of the year you receive certification and you must complete 175 Professional Development hours every 5 years.
For out of state educators wishing to use interstate reciprocity to continue their careers here in NY, you must visit our website at www.teachnyc.net, look under eligibility requirements and then interstate reciprocity. If you did not complete a traditional teacher education program then you must be sure that your certification is a Level II certificate and that you have three years of experience teaching in the subject and/or grade level in which you are certified.

To see if your out-of-state certificate is accepted by NYSED, click the link above, or visit the “Getting Certified” tab in www.teachnyc.net and review the listing in the Interstate Certification section. You do not need to have taken and passed the teacher certification exams and workshops to receive your Interstate Reciprocity - however you must complete all of the required tests and workshops for your certification within 2 years of receiving it. You must always pass a background check and your fingerprints must clear in order to receive any teacher certifications.
Transitional A certification is a classroom teaching certificate issued to permit the employment of individuals in specific career and technical education (CTE) titles in agriculture, health occupations, or a trade who do not meet the requirements for an Initial Certificate, but who have the requisite occupational experience. This certification title is often referred to as Career and Technical Education Certification or CTE. Examples of the occupations that CTE programs prepare high school students for include auto mechanic, healthcare, and computer technology, and engineering to name a few. The CTE certificate is typically held by a tradesman or craftsman, who has previously completed study and/or an apprenticeship and has work experience in the certificate area. To qualify for a CTE certificate, an individual must possess substantial, "hands-on," paid occupational (non-school) work experience in the field of the certificate sought, as well as one course in vocational education.
The Transitional B teaching certificate is issued to permit the employment of an individual who is enrolled in an alternative Teacher Certification program. The Transitional B is tied to the school placement and is issued in classroom teaching titles. As with the internship certificate, candidates seeking to secure transitional B certification must pass two of the four required NYSTCE exams—the Academic Literacy Skills Test and the revised Content Specialty Test in the appropriate subject area.
For Trans G certification, you would need to be a college professor with a MA college degree or higher in science or math; have passed the Academic Literacy Skills Test (ALST); have two years paid, post-secondary teaching experience; have obtained a school district recommendation; completed all workshops and obtained fingerprint clearance.

The STEM pathway requires that the candidate hold an appropriate graduate degree with a graduate major in the subject of the teaching certificate sought in science or math. Individuals who wish to gain a mathematics certificate, for example, must have a graduate degree in mathematics; to teach biology, a college professor would need an advanced degree in biology, and so on. Degrees in engineering, computer science, and other fields not focused exclusively on the subject taught in high school and reflecting the title of the certificate would not be acceptable. Currently there are no STEM certificates in technology education.

The candidate must also have two years of satisfactory experience teaching the subject of the certificate in a post-secondary institution as a professor, assistant professor, associate professor or adjunct professor. Experience as a teaching assistant or graduate assistant, or in any capacity other than as a professor is not acceptable.

A professor must teach at least one course for three semesters per year for two years. The chairperson of the department must verify that the experience was satisfactory.

The Transitional G certificate will allow an individual to teach math or one of the sciences at the secondary level without completing additional pedagogical study for two years. After two years of successful teaching experience with the district on a Transitional G certificate the teacher would be eligible for the initial certificate in that subject area.

This is a general description only. For information on requirements specific to the subject you want to teach, go to NYSED.gov.
So just to recap, here is a summary of the various pathways and certificates you can choose from in pursuing your appropriate NY State teaching certificate. You can learn more specifics about the certification requirements you are interested in by going to www.NYSED.gov.

Some basic terms that you may need to be familiar with when applying to NYSED (so that you can make sure you are applying via the correct pathway) include:

If you are currently enrolled in or graduated from an approved Teacher Preparation Program you will most likely focus on getting Initial, Conditional Initial or Internship Certification.

If you are in an Alternative Certification program you will work with your organization to apply for Transitional B certification.

If you have industry experience in career and technical subjects you will need to pursue Transitional A certification.

If you are a college professor with an MA college degree, or higher, in science or math and have two years paid, post-secondary teaching experience you would apply via the Trans G teacher certification pathway.

In addition, a teacher who is National Board certified can apply to NYSED to receive the same or an equivalent NY State title.

When applying to NYSED.gov for certification it is important to submit all documents and application fees and it is highly suggested that you keep looking at your account to see if your application has been reviewed; see if you are missing any documentation or requirements; and follow up with NYSED as necessary.

Please note that in some certification areas – not all – NYSED will let you apply via an individual pathway evaluation to determine if you meet eligibility requirements for that particular subject/grade level certification.
It’s important to note that no matter which certification pathway you pursue, you will need to have your fingerprints taken by either New York City or New York State, if you wish to be certified to teach in New York State. As an additional resource on this process, NYSED has a great deal of information available online via the URL listed here.

Please note that because both NYSED and the NYCDOE require fingerprinting – NYS for its certification process and NYC as part of its hiring process – the two agencies have a memorandum agreement which ensures that candidates only have to pay for fingerprinting to be completed once.

For student teachers, fingerprinting is a requirement to be able to teach in NYCDOE classrooms. (And, of course, you will need it for your certification as well.) You will complete your fingerprinting requirements for both certification and NYC security clearance as described in the next slide.
Once you have compiled all of your required documents, you should follow the guidelines outlined by NYSED and send for certification verification at the above address.
You should now hopefully have an idea of how you can become certified to teach in NY State, and thus, in New York City public schools. To recap, we’ve included a quick checklist for you to highlight how best to proceed with your own certification process. If you’ve missed the detailed instructions for any of these steps in today’s presentation, don’t worry; we’ll be uploading a recorded version of the slide show to our TeachNYC website for your review.
These are some additional resources you may use to assist you during your journey towards becoming certified in NY. Are there any questions from the audience?