

## Frequently-Asked Questions: Temporary Hurricane Maria Certificate

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### *Temporary Hurricane Maria Certification: Basic Requirements and Processes*

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#### **Q1. What is the Temporary Hurricane Maria Teaching Certificate in New York State?**

On October 16, 2017, the New York State Board of Regents adopted an [emergency measure](#) to allow the creation of a Temporary Hurricane Maria Certificate for teachers displaced from Puerto Rico and/or another U.S. territory as a result of Hurricane Maria to teach in New York State.

#### **Q2. Am I eligible to apply for the Temporary Hurricane Maria Teaching Certificate?**

To be eligible for the Temporary Hurricane Maria Certificate, you must meet the following requirements:

1. *Hold a valid and active certificate or authorization to teach from Puerto Rico or another U.S. territory prior to Hurricane Maria and the candidate, as a result of the Hurricane, has relocated to New York state; and*

2. *Provide satisfactory evidence of employment, such as recent pay-stubs or W-2 forms, from a public school in Puerto Rico or another U.S. territory affected by Hurricane Maria in a position that is equivalent to the title and type of certificate sought. (Please [see Q3](#) for alternatives to proof of certification and employment.) Such experience must be within one year of October 17, 2017, the effective date of the regulation; and*
3. *Meet the general requirements for teacher certification, including a [criminal history check](#) and completion of all required workshops ([Child Abuse Identification](#), [School Violence Intervention and Prevention](#), and [Dignity for All Students Act](#)); and*
4. *Have a commitment of employment from a school district or Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) for one year of employment as a teacher in the area of the certificate sought (including a plan for mentoring from the school district). (Please [see Q4](#) for information on how to receive a commitment of employment from the NYCDOE.)*

**Q3. I do not have my certificate or authorization to teach as a result of Hurricane Maria, how do I provide proof of my employment as a teacher?**

The New York State Department of Education (NYSED) recognizes that some candidates from Puerto Rico or another U.S. territory may have difficulty obtaining a copy of their certificate and proof of employment. As alternative proof of certification, candidates can provide a notarized attestation that such individual is certified.

Additionally, NYSED will be working with the Puerto Rico Department of Education to verify that the candidate has the appropriate certification, to the extent possible, through the Department of Education's online verification system.

**Q4. How do I receive a commitment of employment from the NYC Department of Education (NYCDOE)?**

To receive a commitment of employment from the NYCDOE you must first find a school that wants to hire you. To find teaching opportunities during the 2017-18 school year you must express your interest to teach in NYC by [completing the interest form](#).

Once the NYCDOE receives your information, we will assist you with finding immediate opportunities that match your certification area. If there are openings in the subject you are certified to teach in, we will put you in contact with hiring principals to begin the interview process.

Please keep in mind that completing the interest form and interviewing does not guarantee a teaching position. Once a principal offers you a position you will receive a formal commitment of employment (please [see Q2](#) for more information) from the NYCDOE, thus making you eligible to apply for the Temporary Hurricane Maria Certificate granted by NYSED.

**Q5. How long is the Temporary Hurricane Maria Certificate valid?**

For candidates that meet the requirements their temporary certificates will be valid until June 30, 2018, allowing the teachers to work in a public school or BOCES for the remainder of the 2017-18 school year. The Temporary Hurricane Maria Certificate is not renewable.

**Q6. I plan to stay in New York City after June 2018, when my Temporary Hurricane Maria Certificate expires, how can I apply to teach in a New York City public school for the 2018-19 school year?**

After you receive a Temporary Hurricane Maria Certificate you should begin the process to apply for an Initial Certificate or Conditional Initial Certificate with NYSED to ensure you have a valid certificate for the 2018-19 school year.

*Teachers with 3 or More Years of Experience*

If you are a teacher with at least three years of teaching experience and you meet the following requirements, you may be eligible to apply for an [Initial Certificate](#):

- Possess a valid U.S. State or Territory certificate in the subject you wish to teach; and
  - View our [List of Acceptable Types of Certificates](#)
  - View information regarding; [Special Education, Science, Speech and Language Disabilities, and "add-on" certificates](#)
- Have at least three years of experience in a public school in a single U.S. State or Territory in the subject of your application, within five years of the application date; and

- Verify you received evaluation ratings of effective or highly effective, or the substantial equivalent of such ratings, in the three most recent years of experience in a public school, by completing the Classroom Teacher Rating Form; and
- Bachelor's Degree; and
- 2.5 cumulative GPA in a Bachelor's or higher degree; and
- Receive [Fingerprint Clearance](#); and
- Complete all required workshops ([Child Abuse Identification](#), [School Violence Intervention and Prevention](#), [Dignity for All Students Act](#), and [Autism](#), if applicable).

#### *Teachers with Less than 3 Years of Experience*

If you are a teacher with less than three years of teaching experience you may be eligible to apply for a one-year [Conditional Initial Certificate](#) by meeting the following requirements:

- Possess a valid U.S. State or Territory certificate in the subject you wish to teach:
  - View our [List of Acceptable Types of Certificates](#)
  - View information regarding; [Special Education, Science, Speech and Language Disabilities, and "add-on" certificates](#).
- Bachelor's Degree; and
- 2.5 cumulative GPA in a Bachelor's or higher degree; and
- Satisfactory passing score on the following required [exams](#):
  - [edTPA Safety Net](#) (completion date of this exam might vary by candidate)
  - [Educating All Students test \(EAS\) safety net](#) (must be completed by the time of application)
  - [Content Specialty Tests \(CSTs\) safety Net](#) (must be completed by the time of application)
- Receive [Fingerprint Clearance](#); and
- Complete all required workshops ([Child Abuse Identification](#), [School Violence Intervention and Prevention](#), and [Dignity for All Students Act](#), and [Autism](#), if applicable)

Once you complete the edTPA assessment you'll receive an Initial Certificate that will be valid for five years from the date of the [Conditional Initial](#). **NOTE:** If you fail to complete the requirements for the [Initial](#) Certificate before the expiration of the [Conditional Initial](#)

it will result with a “disapproval” of the Initial Certificate. At that time, you will only be eligible to apply for Professional certification in that subject.

**Q7. Who can I contact at the NYCDOE for more information on the Temporary Hurricane Maria Certificate?**

For eligibility questions or more information regarding the Temporary Hurricane Maria Certificate, please contact Yvonne Rodriguez at [YRodrig@schoools.nyc.gov](mailto:YRodrig@schoools.nyc.gov) or 718-935-4842.

**Q8. Are there programs to assist me with covering the costs of the workshops or examinations required to apply for a teaching certificate in New York State?**

At this time the NYCDOE has no additional programs to support the costs of workshops or exams associated with teaching certifications for teachers relocating to New York City as a result of Hurricane Maria. If such assistance becomes available the NYCDOE will notify individuals who have expressed interest to work in NYC public schools.