



Elisa Alvarez, Associate Commissioner
Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages

Supplementary Certificate Pathways

September 12, 2023 to August 31, 2026

In response to the influx of recently arrived and asylum-seeking students, and to promote the teaching of English Language Learners in NYS schools, the Board of Regents recently adopted an emergency rule to provide flexibilities for the Supplementary Certificate and Supplementary Bilingual Education Extension. The supplementary certificates have a (5) five-year validity period, during which the candidate should be working toward completing the requirements for the initial certificate. In the case of the Bilingual Extension Supplementary certificate, the validity period is (3) three years, and can be renewed for an additional (3) year period for recipients that enroll in a New York State approved teacher education program leading to the Bilingual Extension.

Refer to the table on the second page for requirements to obtain the supplementary certificate. Follow the instructions below to identify the most accurate pathway:

Option One (1):

- You currently hold a New York State teaching certification and you are seeking a supplementary Bilingual Education extension to your current certification.

Option Two (2):

- You currently hold a valid Initial, Professional, or Permanent New York State teaching certification¹ and you are seeking supplementary certification in English to Speakers of Other Languages.

Option Three (3):

- You currently hold an English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Initial, Professional, or Permanent New York State teaching certification and you are seeking supplementary certification in a content area.

Please note that for the supplementary certification, the school district must provide a Superintendent's Statement. This refers to a statement submitted by a New York State public school district, BOCES, nonpublic or charter school online through TEACH that describes the terms of the applicant's employment. For individuals for whom English is not a primary language you may indicate a request for an extension of testing time. You must provide documentation supporting your request that certifies that English is not your primary language.

¹ Career and Technical Certificates cannot be accepted towards this requirement. Certificates issued using one of the following pathways do not satisfy this requirement: (1) Pathway: NYS Professional License, (2) Pathway: ASHA Program

Options for Supplementary Certificate Pathways

Option One (1): Bilingual Education Assessment (BEA) Flexibility	Option Two (2): Supplementary English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Certification	Option Three (3): English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Certified Teachers
Holds a Valid NYS Classroom Teaching Certification		Holds a Valid NYS ESOL Certification
Bilingual Education Assessment (BEA), more information	Suboption One (1) - Content Specialty Test (CST) - ESOL or Safety Net ESOL, more information	Suboption One (1) - Content Specialty Test (CST) in requested subject area, more information
	<i>Suboption One flexibility expires August 31, 2026</i>	
	Suboption Two (2) - College Coursework: - Teaching Literacy Skills Methods (3 S.H.) - Teacher Literacy Skills (3 S.H.) - Methods of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (3 S.H.)	Suboption Two (2) - Supplementary Certificate Content Core in subject area requested (12 S.H.)
Additional Requirements² Workshops: 1. Child Abuse Identification 2. School Violence Intervention and Prevention 3. Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Fingerprint Clearance Superintendent's Statement		
Need more information? See below:		
Search Certification Requirements via NYSED OTI: 1. Area of interest - <i>Other School Service</i> 2. Subject Area - <i>Bilingual Education</i> 3. Grade Level - <i>Pre K-12 - All Grades</i> 4. Title - <i>(select what applies)</i> 5. Type of Certificate - <i>Supplementary Certificate</i>	Search Certification Requirements via NYSED OTI: 1. Area of interest - <i>Classroom Teacher</i> 2. Subject Area - <i>English to Speakers of Other Languages</i> 3. Grade Level - <i>Pre K-12 - All Grades</i> 4. Title - <i>English to Speakers of Other Languages</i> 5. Type of Certificate - <i>Supplementary Certificate</i>	Search Certification Requirements via NYSED OTI: 1. Area of interest - <i>Classroom Teacher</i> 2. Subject Area - <i>(select what applies)</i> 3. Grade Level - <i>(select what applies)</i> 4. Title - <i>(select what applies)</i> 5. Type of Certificate - <i>Supplementary Certificate</i>

² These requirements are standard across all certifications. If applicants have already completed it, it will automatically be applied.

Note that for suboptions one (1) and two (2) the expectation is that candidates complete the full certification requirements within 5-years time to keep the teaching certificate.