

Anchorage School District
No Child Left Behind Highly Qualified Teacher
CAREER and TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Frequently Asked Questions

Who has to be highly qualified under the No Child Left Behind Act?

- As of June 30, 2006, under the federal NCLB Act, all public school teachers who teach a core subject are required to be highly qualified. This includes CTE teachers providing instruction in core academic areas.

Are the teachers of CTE courses that offer core content credit as an option required to be highly qualified?

- Yes. If the class offers core academic credit then it is an indication that the class was approved with the expectation that core content be taught and the instructor must be highly qualified under the federal definition.

Despite the core content credit option, if there's an assurance that no core content credit will be issued to any student in a particular CTE class, could this assurance be used as a basis for not requiring the teacher to meet highly qualified requirements?

- No. That core credit is available as an option for a CTE course is a clear indication that the course was approved with the expectation that core academic subject matter be taught. Under federal guidelines, public school teachers who teach core content are required to be highly qualified, regardless of whether any students actually opt for the core credit. In other words, HQ requirements are not based on whether students are actually opting for core credit. HQ requirements are based on a course having been approved with the expectation that core content be taught.

I have a degree in home economics and a teaching degree. Although the CTE classes I teach offer social studies credit, we do not grant that particular credit at this school. Because of these factors, do I still need to meet HQ requirements?

- The belief that the credit is not granted at any particular school is not correct. If a student needs that credit and took the class, the credit is automatically given. Regardless of whether any students receive core credit, that a class offers core content credit as an option is a clear indication that the class was approved with the expectation that core content be taught. Therefore, according to federal and state law, HQ requirements must be met. By federal and state definition, home economics and teaching are not core content subject areas; therefore, neither degree forms the basis for being deemed highly qualified in social studies.

What are the core academic subjects?

- The core academic subjects are defined by state and federal authorities as: English, reading or language arts, mathematics, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, history, geography, social studies, speech communications, music, theatre, art and science is broken into the following separate designations: biology, chemistry, earth science, general science, physical science and physics.

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What about CTE teachers with Type M Limited Certificates? Can they be deemed highly qualified?

- To be deemed highly qualified a teacher must meet three requirements:
 1. Have at least a bachelor's degree,
 2. Have full state certification and
 3. Have demonstrated subject matter competency in each core academic subject taught.
- By definition, a Type M Limited Certificate does not require a bachelor's degree and is issued because the CTE teacher has met certain vocational and technical specialty requirements. Therefore, if a Type M certificated teacher provides core content instruction, s/he would not be eligible to attain an HQ designation unless s/he happened, incidentally, to have a bachelor's degree, because a bachelor's degree is one of the three HQT requirements. If a Type M holder happens to have a bachelor's degree, s/he has met two of the three HQ requirements and may demonstrate subject matter competency as outlined in the HQ pathways shown below. However, if a vocational education class does not offer core academic credit, there are no HQ requirements to be met.

I teach Food Science as well as Childhood Development and Parenting. The first course has a science credit option for students and the other course a social studies credit option. I have been notified that I do not meet highly qualified requirements for either class. I am not interested in obtaining a degree in science or social studies. My principal and I feel that my training and experience qualify me to teach these classes. By all accounts, I am a highly effective teacher. Do I still need to meet NCLB highly qualified requirements?

- That core academic credit is available to students is an indication that the courses were approved with the expectation that core academic subject matter be taught. Under the NCLB Act, all public school teachers who teach a core subject are required to be highly qualified. This includes CTE teachers providing instruction in core academic areas. Also, it is worth mentioning that a degree in the subject matter is not the only pathway for a teacher to demonstrate subject matter competency.

What pathways exist for a teacher to demonstrate subject matter competency?

- Secondary teachers must be highly qualified in each core subject they teach. They can become highly qualified in any one of the following ways:
 1. Degree or advanced degree in the core subject **or**
 2. College major in the core subject **or**
 3. Major equivalent in the core subject (30 semester credits or the equivalent) **or**
 4. Passing score on state-approved Praxis II exam in core content **or**
 5. Passing score (100 points) on the HOUSSE **or**
 6. National Board Certification in the content area **or**
 7. State reciprocity
- For more HQT options information, go online to www.asdk12.org/nclb/teachers/.

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Are some CTE classes in the process of having the core academic credit option removed? If so, do I still need to meet highly qualified requirements?

- There are no plans to remove the core academic credit option from any ASD CTE class. Questions related to this can be directed to CTE Coordinator, Rick Rios, at Rios_Rick@asdk12.org or 742-8942. In answer to the second part of the question, yes, all public school teachers are required to meet NCLB HQ requirements.

In what ways does the ASD support teachers seeking highly qualified designations?

- The ASD is committed to supporting its teachers in obtaining HQ designations. For consultation regarding HQ planning, support, and fiscal resources – contact Zareena Clendaniel at Clendaniel_Zareena@asdk12.org or 742-7819. For more information, go online to www.asdk12.org/nclb/teachers/. Specific examples of HQ support include the following: Praxis II prep classes for credit and addenda, Praxis II study groups for credit and addenda, Praxis II study guide checkout, addenda for eligible Praxis II scores, foreign language testing (LTI), My HQT application assistance and HQT consultation.

Where can I get more NCLB highly qualified teacher information?

- ASD highly qualified teacher support information is available through Zareena Clendaniel at 742-7819 or Clendaniel_Zareena@asdk12.org. There is No Child Left Behind Act and HQT information on the district's Website at www.asdk12.org/nclb/teachers/. The Alaska State Department of Education and Early Development has a site at www.eed.state.ak.us/nclb. The federal Department of Education Website is www.ed.gov/nclb.