

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL TEACHING CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

System Restricted Independent School Teaching Certificate (SYR)

1) This certificate restricts the holder to teaching within a BC Independent Montessori or Waldorf School. A certificate can be further restricted to kindergarten depending on the program completed. Eligibility criteria include:

- 120 or more semester hour credits of relevant post-secondary education from a recognized institution.
- The above-noted 120 semester hour credits of post-secondary education must include a teaching credential from a recognized institution that provides teacher training solely within the Montessori or Waldorf philosophical, educational, or pedagogical perspective.

For certificates restricted to Montessori Education, the Teacher Regulation Branch is currently only recognizing programs that are accredited through the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), American Montessori Society (AMS), or the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE). These bodies are recognized in North America as accrediting programs that adhere to the Montessori principles and carry out regular inspections of the programs they accredit. Programs completed internationally will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

For certificates restricted to Waldorf Education, the Teacher Regulation Branch is currently only recognising Waldorf education programs completed in North America that are accredited through the Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN) or the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA). Programs completed internationally will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Programs that are completed entirely by distance/online education are unlikely to be recognised by these bodies and are therefore not currently recognised by the Teacher Regulation Branch. The Montessori/Waldorf method and philosophies are inherently practical and therefore only teacher education programs that contain significant on-campus education and a practicum that is supervised and evaluated will be recognised.

2) This certificate also restricts the holder to teaching in schools that operate under l'Agence pour l'Enseignement Français à l'Étranger (AEFE). Eligibility criteria include:

- Any of the following certificates demonstrating successful completion of a competitive examination, which qualify the holder to teach in the French public school system: CRPE, CAPE, CAPES, CAPET, CAFEP, CAPLP, CAPEPS, or the *Agrégation*; and
- 120 or more semester hour credits of relevant post-secondary education.

SYR Language Proficiency

Proof of language proficiency is required where the first language is not English or French. The minimum scores required on an English proficiency test are as follows:

IELTS Academic		TOEFL iBT	
Listening	6	Reading	23
Reading	6	Listening	23
Writing	7	Speaking	27
Speaking	7	Writing	25
Overall	6.5	Total	98

The Ministry of Education will consider passing scores in each band over the past three tests from the same testing instrument to meet the language proficiency requirement.

For French language proficiency, a minimum of B1 is required on the Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF).

Validity

System Restricted Certificates are non-expiring upon issue.

Subject Restricted Independent School Teaching Certificate (SR)

This certificate restricts the holder to teaching subject(s) within the BC Independent School System that are directly related to his/her post-secondary subject concentrations. These certificates are restricted to teaching in the following subject categories:

Additional Languages ^o	Health Sciences
Applied Skills	Humanities
English Language Arts	Religious Studies
Fine Arts	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
Library	Special Education

Eligibility criteria include:

- A degree and 120 or more semester hour credits of relevant post-secondary education from a recognized institution.
- 18 credits of upper level (third and fourth year) academic course work or 30 credits of any level academic course work in at least one of the teachable areas identified with the applicable subject category below (certificates can be issued to an applicant under multiple subject categories if the applicant demonstrates these academic qualifications under each category):

Subject Category (SR Restriction)	Teachable Area/Academic Qualifications	
Additional Languages ^o	Arabic Croatian English as a Second Language (ESL) Farsi French German Hebrew	Italian Japanese Korean Mandarin Punjabi Russian Spanish
Applied Skills	Accounting Automotives Business Education Career Education Computer Science/Programming o Counselling Culinary Arts E-Commerce o <i>Qualifications could also fall under STEM subject area</i>	Entrepreneurship & Marketing Equestrian Studies Food Studies Home Economics Planning Technology Education o Textiles
English Language Arts	Communications Composition Creative Writing English Journalism	Literary Studies New Media Spoken Language (<i>Focus on verbal communications and oral traditions</i>)
Fine Arts	Art Art Studio Dance Directing & Scriptwriting Drama Drawing and Painting <i>At least six credits in a fine and performing arts teachable areas must be studies in theory (i.e. non-studio).</i>	Film & Television Graphic Arts Music Photography Sculpture Theatre Production
Health Sciences	Active Living Fitness and Conditioning Health Education Kinesiology	Outdoor Education Physical Education Physical Therapy
Humanities	Anthropology Asian Studies BC First Peoples + Canadian Studies Classical Civilization Comparative Cultures Comparative World Religions Contemporary Indigenous Studies + Economics Geography History + <i>Qualifications could also fall under Indigenous Education subject area</i> <i>** Social Studies should include courses from a combination of the following disciplines: History, Geography, Canadian Studies, Political Science, Sociology, Anthropology, and Economics.</i>	Human Geography International Relations Journalism Law Studies Philosophy Political Science Psychology Religious Studies Social Studies ** Sociology Women's Studies

Subject Category (SR Restriction)	Teachable Area/Academic Qualifications
Indigenous Education	BC First Peoples + Contemporary Indigenous Studies + <i>+ Qualifications could also fall under Humanities subject area</i>
Library	
Religious Studies	Christian Studies Islamic Studies Judaic Studies Sikh Studies
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)	Anatomy Astronomy Biology Calculus Chemistry Computer Science/Programming ø Environmental Science General Science *** Geography Geology/Earth Science <i>ø Qualifications could also fall under Applied Skills</i> <i>*** General Science should include courses from a combination of the following disciplines: Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Physical Geography, Geology/Earth Science, Ocean Science, Environmental Science and Astronomy.</i>
Special Education	

° For the subject category of Additional Languages, in the absence of 30 credits (18 upper level credits) of course work in a teaching area applicants' whose first language is other than English will be awarded the equivalence of 30 credits of academic course work in the language upon:

- completion of high-school and a post-secondary degree in a country where that language is the primary language of instruction;
AND
- completion of 6 credits of literature and composition at the post-secondary level in the language to be taught °°

°° For teaching French language: A DELF (Diplôme d'études en langue Française) exam may be taken and a CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference) level B2 must be attained in the instance that 6 credits of literature and composition have not been completed.

Please be advised that a letter from the institution may be required confirming the language of instruction for the entire program that you attended, if the program of study is not entirely in the language to be taught.

Note: SR Certificates are not issued to elementary generalists. The above list of Teachable Area/Academic Qualifications is not exhaustive and the Director of Certification may add a Teachable Area/Academic Qualifications to one of the established Subject Categories. Only the ISTCSC may add additional Subject Categories to the list.

SR Language Proficiency

Proof of language proficiency is required where the first language is not English or French. The minimum scores required on an English proficiency test are as follows:

IELTS Academic		TOEFL iBT	
Listening	6	Reading	23
Reading	6	Listening	23
Writing	7	Speaking	27
Speaking	7	Writing	25
Overall	6.5	Total	98

The Ministry of Education will consider passing scores in each band over the past three tests from the same testing instrument to meet the language proficiency requirement.

For French language proficiency, a minimum of B1 is required on the Diplôme d'études en langue française (DEL F).

Validity

Subject Restricted Certificates are interim certificates, initially valid for up to 60 months. To upgrade to a non-expiring certificate, the certificate holder must demonstrate successful teaching in a school authorized by the Ministry of Education to teach the B.C. curriculum for at least 1.5 years full time (or equivalent part time). Teacher-on-call experience (substitute teaching) is not accepted to upgrade to a non-expiring certificate.

School and Subject Restricted Independent School Teaching Certificate (SSR)

This certificate restricts the holder to teaching only at the sponsoring authority seeking to employ the applicant, and in one or more subjects related to the holder's specialized post-secondary training, unique life skills or practical experience.

SSR certificates may also be grade-restricted, depending on the applicant's credentials, training and experience.

All SSR applications are approved by the Director of Certification at the Teacher Regulation Branch in consultation with the Inspector of Independent Schools.

- An SSR-1 designation normally requires post-secondary training in a teachable subject area, and is typically limited to grades K-9;
- An SSR-2 designation normally requires post-secondary training and credential completion (certificate, diploma, etc.) and is typically needed for instruction of electives at the Graduation Program level.

SSR certificates are not normally issued for core provincially regulated subjects commonly taught in the BC school system such as Drama, English, Fine Art, French, Math, Music, Science (including Biology, Chemistry and Physics), Social Studies (including History and Geography), Physical Education, and Technology Education. Applications for SSR Certificates in Special Education will not be considered.

Applications for SSR Certificates in the areas of Drama, Fine Art, and Music may be considered depending on a School Authority's specific school or community identity. SSR applications in teaching areas that are difficult to fill (e.g. Foreign Languages, Industrial or Technology Education) will also be considered. Applications for the SSR in Religious Studies/Education or in Board Authority Approved (BAA) authorized courses are well suited.

Because areas such as Drama, Fine Art, French (as well as other languages), Music, Industrial or Technology Education are considered core provincially regulated subjects, these applications may be denied depending on particular circumstances. If this is the case, the Director of Certification *may* suggest that an application for a Letter of Permission (LOP) be made jointly by the individual and the School Authority.

If an employer has an individual teaching on an LOP (who has been denied the SSR), the employer will be required to post and advertise the position again in the following school year. If the employer is still unable to fill this position with a certified teacher, the Director of Certification, in consultation with Inspector of Independent Schools, will consider the issuance of an SSR to the individual. This ensures that the School Authority continues to advertise the job in an attempt to find a certified individual to fill the position.

SSR Language Proficiency

Proof of language proficiency is required where the first language is not English or French. The minimum scores required on an English proficiency test are as follows:

IELTS Academic		TOEFL iBT	
Listening	5	Reading	20
Reading	5	Listening	20
Writing	6	Speaking	25
Speaking	5	Writing	20
Overall	6	Total	85

The Ministry of Education will consider passing scores in each band over the past three tests from the same testing instrument to meet the language proficiency requirement.

For French language proficiency, a minimum of B1 is required on the Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF).

Validity

School and Subject Restricted Certificates are interim certificates, initially valid for up to 60 months. To upgrade to a non-expiring certificate, the certificate holder must demonstrate successful teaching in an acceptable BC Independent School for at least 1.5 years full time (or equivalent part time). Teacher-on-call experience (substitute teaching) is not accepted to upgrade to a non-expiring certificate.