

CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

When applying for a teaching position in the state of Washington, you must obtain a Washington teaching certificate prior to teaching in a classroom. This process may take anywhere from 16-22 weeks. START THE PROCESS EARLY!

You must meet the following criteria:

- **Age.** (18 years old)
- **Moral Character & Fitness.** A background check which includes obtaining fingerprints and being screened by both the Washington State Patrol and the FBI.
- **Degree.** A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college/university.
- **Preparation Program.** A state-approved teacher preparation program at a regionally accredited college/university is required. Programs typically include content (what to teach), methodology (how to teach), and a student teaching experience (internship or practicum).
- **Basic Skills Test.** If applying from out-of-state for a residency certificate, applicants must pass a basic skills test within 12 months of receiving their first temporary permit. Those who have a passing score on the CBEST or Praxis I test may submit official score reports in lieu of the WEST-B. For information on test registration/administration, contact National Evaluation Systems at (800) 784-4999. Online registration is available at <http://www.west.nesinc.com>.
- **Endorsement Test.** Applicants must pass an endorsement test (WEST-E or Praxis II) in each endorsement area desired within 12 months of receiving their first Residency permit. For information on test registration/administration, see contact Education Testing Service at (800) 772-9476 or <http://www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html>.

**The next available dates for the WEST-B test are
May 12 and July 14.**

**The next available dates for the Praxis II tests are
June 9 and August 4.**

Please contact the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction at 360-725-6400 or www.k12.wa.us/certification or Puget Sound ESD at 425-917-7612 or www.psesd.org/certification for more information on the testing or certification process.