



## MICHIGAN

### CERTIFICATION

In Michigan two types of teaching certificates are currently issued. Provisional certificates are issued initially. After three years of successful teaching experience and the fulfillment of other requirements, teachers can apply for an advanced Professional certificate. For initial certification the state has identified the following minimum requirements:

- ❖ a bachelor's degree and recommendation by a Michigan college or university approved by the state board; and
- ❖ the sponsoring institution makes all recommendations concerning certificates.

All candidates for certification must pass the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC)—Basic Skills Test prior to student teaching.

### Elementary Certification

In addition to completing professional education requirements and directed teaching, candidates must demonstrate either of the following:

- ❖ a major of not less than 30 semester hours or a group major of 36 semester hours and, in addition to such major or group major, a planned program of 20 semester hours in other fields deemed appropriate to elementary education. Six hours must be in the teaching of reading;
- ❖ three minors of not less than 20 semester hours each, 2 of which shall be in substantive fields which may include a group minor of 24 semester hours and 1 of which may be a planned program of 20 semester hours in a combination of methods and content appropriate to elementary education. Six semester hours must be in the teaching of reading; and

- ❖ provisional certificates will be valid K–5 for all grades and in subject areas grade 6–8 where the applicant has completed a major or minor, and for teaching all subjects K–8 when they are taught in a self-contained classroom.

Elementary candidates must also pass the MTTC elementary education examination before they can be recommended for certification. If they wish to teach in grades 6–8, they must pass the MTTC examination in specialty areas (i.e. their major and or minor).

## **Secondary Certification**

In addition to completing professional education requirements and directed teaching, candidates must demonstrate all of the following:

- ❖ a major of not less than 30 semester hours or a group major of 36 semester hours;
- ❖ a minor of 20 semester hours or a group minor of 24 semester hours;
- ❖ 3 hours in the teaching of reading; and
- ❖ certificate is valid for teaching the subject areas grades 7–12 in which the applicant has completed a major or minor.

Secondary candidates must pass the MTTC examination in specialty areas (i.e., their major and or minor) before they can be recommended for certification.

## **Endorsements**

Endorsements can be completed by following a planned program with a minimum of 18 semester hours. Candidates for additional endorsements (following initial certification) must complete an approved preparation program and pass the MTTC examination in their specialty area before they can be recommended for certification.

## **STANDARDS**

### **Standards for Teachers**

The Office of Professional Preparation Services of the Michigan State Board of Education established general entry-level standards for Michigan teachers. According to the rationale provided in the document, each entry-level standard “sets the foundation for and complements subject area proficiencies.” These entry-level standards do not address specific content knowledge.

The Michigan State Board of Education has adopted teacher preparation program standards for both social studies and history. Institutions are required to demonstrate how their programs meet these standards, and responses are reviewed by a panel of content experts. When programs have demonstrated compliance to the satisfaction of reviewers, a five-year approval recommendation is forwarded to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Colleges and universities in Michigan are provided with a content guidelines/standards matrix. Guidelines have been established for both social studies and history. Colleges and

universities are expected to fill out the matrix and compose a narrative pertaining to the ways in which students' required courses and/or experiences fulfill the standards. These standards are broad and expect students, for example, to be able to describe major eras in U.S. history before and after 1877. In world history students are expected to describe major eras before and after 1500. Skills related to historical interpretation are also included.

### **Standards for Students**

According to a June 13, 2002, publication, the Michigan Curriculum Framework is currently under revision. The Michigan Curriculum Framework contains the Michigan Social Studies Standards and benchmarks. The standards were created in 1995. The working draft benchmarks are under a constant state of revision. The standards are coded and identified by subject area, content area strand, content standard, cluster level, and benchmark.

Michigan has identified 25 standards that are indicators of responsible citizenship. The standards are pursued at every grade level and are distinguished in the categories early elementary, later elementary, middle school, and high school. The standards are grouped into the following seven strands:

- ❖ Strand I: Historical Perspective
- ❖ Strand II: Geographic Perspective
- ❖ Strand III: Civic Perspective
- ❖ Strand IV: Economic Perspective
- ❖ Strand V: Inquiry
- ❖ Strand VI: Public Discourse and Decision Making
- ❖ Strand VII: Citizen Involvement

Under Historical Perspective, students draw upon such "fields of historical thinking" as Time and Chronology, Comprehending the Past, Analyzing and Interpreting the Past, and Judging Decisions from the Past. Benchmarks in each category inform teachers what students should know and be able to do. In these four standards, U.S. history is mentioned several times. The standards refer to world history and provide some suggestions in the benchmarks, but world history is not a point of focus and is not described in detail.

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION/EXIT EXAM**

The 11th grade MEAP is considered a high school exit examination, but passing the MEAP is not a requirement for graduation.

### **ASSESSMENT**

The Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) measures students' performance as related to the state's academic standards in five content areas: mathematics, reading, science, social studies, and writing. In social studies, students are scored on these criterion-referenced tests at four levels: exceeded standards, met standards, basic, and apprentice. Students take the socials studies test at grades 5, 8, and 11.

