



Initial Certification and Your First Year of Teaching

Initial Teaching Certification

- When can I apply?
- Your Education Prep Program will recommend you for a Professional Certificate in your chosen endorsement area **AFTER** your graduation date
- Have your transcript (with your confer date) in PDF format and upload it into the MEIS system before or during the application submission
- Once you have been recommended, your Ed Prep Program will let you know it is time to apply.

Becoming Certified In Maine

- Step 1 – Ensure you have created your MEIS account (handout provided)
- Step 2 – When it is time, submit your application online (handout provided)

Things to know:

- Cost is \$100 for first application, additional endorsements are \$35 each
- Looking to add endorsements? Visit <https://www.maine.gov/doe/cert/> to see requirements for Conditional and Professional certificates for each endorsement

Ready to Apply

Where are
positions
posted?

Indeed.com

Schoolspring.com

Servingschools.com

Local sources:
newspaper, district
websites, etc.

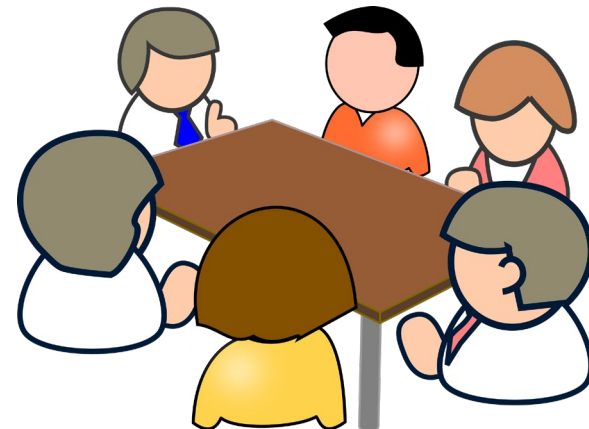
The Hiring Process



- Applications reviewed
- Top candidates are interviewed
- Hiring committee recommends candidate to superintendent
- Superintendent interviews selected candidates
- Superintendent recommends one candidate to the School Committee
- School Committee makes final decision

Interview Tips

- Before
 - Know the community/school
 - Practice
 - Develop questions
- During
 - Pull from a variety of experiences
 - Showcase your skills and interests
- After
 - Reflect on the experience
 - Follow up with a thank you!



What to Expect When You Are Hired

- Human Resources:
 - Benefits, Contract, Paperwork, etc.
- Induction or New Teacher Orientation
- Mentorship of one year:
 - Two peer observations
 - Opportunities for feedback and support
- Teacher Evaluation System:
 - Peer support
 - Goal setting
 - Observation
 - Evidence of professional practice

Professional Growth is Important

The enormity of our job is staggering:

- Growing great humans
- Making possibility palpable
- Shaking the habituated mind awake
- Helping our species evolve



Find me someone who settles for average in teaching and I'll show you someone who doesn't understand the magnitude of the mission. ~ Amy Fast

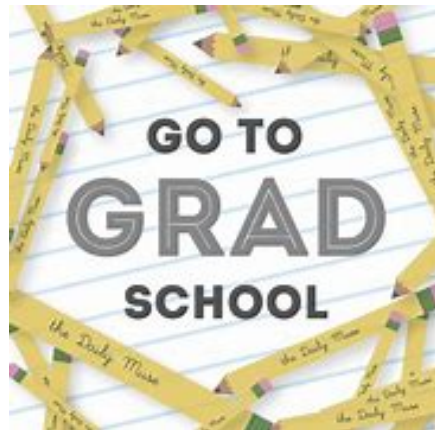
Opportunities for Professional Growth



WHAT WORKS IN EDUCATION
THE GEORGE LUCAS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



Young Education Professionals
of the Maine Education Association



Renewing a Certification

- Professional Certificates expire after 5 years
- Renewal Requirements
 - 6 semester hours OR 90 professional development contact hours OR an equivalent combination of both
- If you are employed in a public school, a certification support chair will work with you on requirements and will verify your completion of requirements. If not, you will upload all documentation with your renewal application
- Ensure you have applied for renewal BEFORE your expiration date. If your certificate ever “lapses” you will need new fingerprints and will be responsible for any additional coursework in current law