

Evidence 2023.1.3.4 CIRCULAR LETTER PCMAS NUM. 04-2022-2023

Evidence Overview

The "Regulations for the Certification of Teaching Personnel of Puerto Rico" establish the academic and professional requirements that an aspiring teacher must pass to obtain a regular teaching certificate. This certificate will allow you to practice as a teacher in public and private schools in Puerto Rico, in accordance with Law 94 of June 21, 1955, as amended, known as "Law to Regulate Teacher Certification." Among the requirements necessary to obtain certification, it is established to take and pass the Teacher Certification Test (PCMAS).

CAEP Standards Alignment

Initial

1.3

Advanced

The Evidence

The evidence is the Public Policy on Teacher Certification Testing from the Puerto Rico Department of Education.



GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO
DEPARTAMENTO DE EDUCACIÓN

Secretary | Atty. Eliezer Ramos Parés | ramospr@de.pr.gov

Translated with Google Translate

September 2, 2022

Letter no.04-2022-2023

Associate Under Secretary, Under Secretary for Administration, Acting Under Secretary for Academic and Programmatic Affairs, Acting Associate Secretary for Special Education, Assistant Secretaries, Division and Office Directors, Managers and Assistant Managers, Executive Directors, Area and Program Directors, Regional Superintendents, School Superintendents , assistant superintendents, teaching facilitators, school directors, staff of higher education institutions in Puerto Rico with teacher preparation programs, teachers and teacher-aspiring students

PUBLIC *POLICY* ON TEACHER CERTIFICATION TESTING AND STATE TEACHER *REPORT CARD* PREPARATION

The "Regulations for the Certification of Teaching Personnel of Puerto Rico" establish the academic and professional requirements that an aspiring teacher must pass to obtain a regular teaching certificate. This certificate will allow you to practice as a teacher in public and private schools in Puerto Rico, in accordance with Law 94 of June 21, 1955, as amended, known as "Law to Regulate Teacher Certification." Among the requirements necessary to obtain certification, it is established to take and pass the Teacher Certification Test (PCMAS).

As part of the new policies of the Department of Education of Puerto Rico (DEPR) and of the new requirements for the accreditation of the teacher preparation programs, a review and reconceptualization process was carried out by the PCMAS. This process had as its purpose that tests would respond to the needs and expectations of the students of the educational public of Puerto Rico from the degree's preschool until the twelfth (PK-12). In addition, the competencies that every applicant to teacher has that develop for be cash in the hall of classes, according to it establishes the regulation state and federal.

Legal base

Law no. 85 of March 29, 2018, known as the "Puerto Rico Educational Reform Law", establishes in its explanatory memorandum that:

The human beings educated in the public system must become humanists who are empathetic to the reality and needs of others and communities in which they live and work, get involved, become entrepreneurial professionals, and be able to insert themselves into a dynamic global economy. The purpose is to develop critical thinkers with sensitivity and depth, detached men and women of state with resilient character, upright, genuine, and committed to progress.

Likewise, Law no. 85 of 2018, *supra*, in article 5.01. – Requirements for Aspiring Teachers, it is indicated that:

- a. To be teachers in the Public Education System, an applicant must possess a Teacher Certificate in accordance with Law No. 94 of 21 of June of 1955, according to amended ¹. [...]
- b. Applicants must be certified by completing a pedagogical preparation program it may either be a traditional program or alternate route: [...].

The *Higher Education Opportunity Act* (HEA) of 2008, as amended, is the federal law that governs the administration of federal higher education programs, its purpose is to strengthen educational resources at postsecondary institutions, colleges, and universities. Additionally, it provides financial assistance to higher and post-secondary education students. Was approved by first time in 1965 to ensure that every individual has access to higher education, regardless of income or zip code.

The Law no. 88 of 26 of July of 2010, known as "Law to provide that applicants can take the revalidation exam for all professions that require it, they will have illimited opportunities to take and approve it».

Tests for Teacher Certification

Starting this year, PCMAS will be administered twice: October and March. They will be offered tempered with the following provisions:

¹ The title of this is "Law to Regulate Teacher Certification."



A. Testing for Teacher Certification (PCMAS) - Only two different tests will be offered. They are:

1. General PCMAS with a pedagogical situation for the primary level - The test measures those knowledge and skills considered essential for teachers to perform efficiently at the primary level.
2. General PCMAS with a pedagogical situation for the secondary level - the test measures the knowledge and skills that are considered essential for teachers to perform in an efficient manner level secondary.

B. Requirements for a candidate to obtain a certification for the first time.

1. The candidate who wishes a Certification in Early Education or at the Elementary Level must pass the General PCMAS with a pedagogical situation for the primary level. This provision will apply to the following categories: Early Education: Preschool Level; Early Education: Primary Elementary Level K-3; Elementary Level 4-6; English Elementary Level; Montessori Infants and Toddlers; Montessori Home of the child; Montessori Elementary 6-9 years; Montessori Elementary 9-12 years.
2. The applicant who wants a Certification at the Secondary Level must pass the General PCMAS with pedagogical situation for the secondary level. This provision will be applicable to the following categories: Spanish; Math; English; Social studies; History; Biology; Physical; Chemistry; General Science; Environmental Sciences; Earth Sciences; Montessori House of the Young; all categories of Occupational Programs.
3. The applicant who wishes to obtain a Regular Teacher Certification in the areas in the which there are no certifications by level has to approve the General PCMAS with pedagogical situation for primary level, either the General PCMAS with situation pedagogical for the secondary level, according to their preparation. This provision will be applicable to the following categories: Health School; Beautiful Arts; Education Special; Resource in the Use of the computer; Bilingual Education; Physical education; Adapted Physical Education, Foreign Languages; Radio and Television Production Resource; Principles of Technology Education; Education for the Family and the Consumer.



C. Minimum score for the approval of PCMAS

The minimum passing scale score established for the PCMAS (General at the primary level and General at the secondary level) will be 89. The examining entity will notify the DEPR, the institutions of higher education, and each candidate of the results obtained. Any candidate may request a review of the test results from the entity that administers it. Said entity will notify the DEPR of any change in the results.

D. Terms in that the minimum score will be reviewed for approved PCMAS

The minimum score required to pass the PCMAS will be reviewed periodically inside a lapse that will not exceed five years. This manner guarantees that the standards of approval adjust to the dynamics of the public educational system and the demands of the professional class magisterial.

Preparation of the *State Teacher Report Card*

The sections 205-208 of the Qualification II of the H.E.A. establish that the institutions of higher education (IHE) of the states with teacher preparation programs they must yield reports annual about the quality of their programs. The mechanism established to submit the report is the *Institutional and Program Report Card* (IPRC). This must be completed no later than April 30 of each year through the website: <https://title2.ed.gov/Public/Home.aspx> . By so much, is the responsibility of the IHE of Puerto Rico that have teacher preparation programs to report to the Department of Education of Puerto Rico (DEPR) the rates of approval graduates in the PCMAS, among other data of the program required in the IPRC. This responsibility includes all teacher preparation programs, whether through traditional route ², alternative or another certification program that enrolls the students that receive attendance federal under Title IV of the HEA.

The DEPR is responsible for reporting information about certification requirements, license grants, and state evaluation rates to the Department of Education in the United States of America. This information is reported annually through the State Teacher Report Card (STRC) every October. The report must also classify and break down information by institution as required.

² Consult the definitions of route traditional and route alternate in the Regulation 9375, acquaintance as the "Regulation of Certifications of Teaching Personnel of the Department of Education of Puerto Rico" at <http://app.estado.gobierno.pr/ReglamentosOnLine/Reglamentos/9375.pdf>



For these purposes, the DEPR has a federal HEA Title II coordinator, who is responsible for:

1. Be the contact between the staff of the Title II Office of the HEA of the Federal Department of Education and the DEPR on matters related to IPRC and STRC.
2. Keep a record of staff contact of each IES in Puerto Rico.
3. Offer training and technical assistance to HEIs to complete the IPRC.
4. Annually request the data required for STRC to the Certification Office Teacher.
5. Request annually from the Board of Postsecondary Institutions of the Department of State the list of HEIs authorized to operate in Puerto Rico.
6. Prepare annually the memorandum on the calendar of activities to complete IPRC and submit it for the signature of the secretary.
7. Send the calendar of activities to complete the IPRC to staff contacts of the IES with programs of preparation for teachers.
8. Receive the reports about the results of the PCMAS, as agreed with the Office of Measurement and Assessment.
9. Collaborate with the Office of Teacher Certifications to implement the current "Teacher Preparation Program Classification Regulations".
10. To complete and certify annually, the STRC.
11. Deliver to the secretary the STRC certificate.
12. Assist with meetings related to the IPRC and the

STRC. Provisions general

1. This Circular Letter, when it does reference the teacher, includes the teaching staff of all academic programs, Special Education, Montessori, and Education Occupational and Technique.
2. The institutions of higher education in Puerto Rico with teacher preparation programs will be responsible for authorizing their students, who have completed the established requirements, to take the PCMAS. If an applicant has studied at different universities in Puerto Rico, the last institution where he/she completed the Test-taking requirements will grant permission to take the PCMAS.



3. The division of teacher certifications will be responsible for authorizing to take PCMAS to the applicants that:
 - a. completed their teacher preparation program:
 - 1) abroad
 - 2) ten years ago, or more, or
 - 3) in an institution of higher education that does not exist anymore.
 - b. have active teaching status with the DEPR, have completed a high school degree, and comply with current state and federal regulations.
4. The candidate who does not pass the PCMAS required for certification may repeat it as many times as necessary, as provided by Law No. 88 of July 26, 2010. However, higher education institutions in Puerto Rico with teacher preparation programs may require their graduates to take remedial courses, refreshers, or workshops before authorizing them to take the PCMAS again. This provision will be of applicability to the applicants who have failed on three or more occasions.
5. The process for renewing the Regular Teacher Certificate does not require that the applicant take the PCMAS again.
6. The candidate that wants certification in the categories of School Social Work, Professional School Counselor, Occupational Education, whose practice is regulated by the Board of Examiners and post-secondary level do not have to take the PCMAS.
7. The teacher that has a regular certificate and wants to recertify in another category in either level do not have that take the PCMAS again.
8. The PCMAS will not have an expiration date after November 15, 2019.

This public policy supersedes previous provisions or other established rules that contravene it, through public policy, memoranda or newsletters that are in conflict, in whole or in part.

Faithful compliance with the rules established in this circular letter is required.

Sincerely, [Signed Link](#)

Atty. Eliezer Ramos Parés Secretary