

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Highly Qualified

Does the highly qualified requirement apply to all public school teachers?

The highly qualified requirements apply to teachers of core academic subjects. The term core “academic subjects” includes:

- Elementary General
- Elementary Foreign Language
- Middle School English (includes Reading)
- Middle School Math
- Middle School Science
- Middle School Social Studies
- Middle School Foreign Language
- High School English (includes Reading)
- High School Math
- High School Science
- High School Social Studies
- High School Foreign Language
- High School Art

Do NCLB highly qualified requirements apply to Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers?

NO. It does not apply to Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers.

Is there a difference between being certified and highly qualified?

YES. Certification does not equal Highly Qualified. In order to meet the definition for highly qualified a teacher must be certified in the area in which they are teaching **and** demonstrate content mastery through one of several options. These options include the HOUSSE requirements (continuing learning units), Praxis or transcripts, National Board Certification in the content/subject area taught. (Go to the following link for more details: www.louisianaschools.net)

Is there funding available to assist teachers and paraprofessionals to meet highly qualified status?

YES. State and Federal funds (i.e. Title I, Title II, etc.) are used for tuition reimbursement for teachers and paraprofessionals. These funds are also used to reimburse for the cost of taking Praxis exams. (Payment is made up to 3 times for the same test.) Contact Support Programs at 922-5609 for details.

What is a continuing learning unit (CLU)?

A continuing learning unit is a professional development activity that builds capacity for effective, research-based, content-focused teaching and learning that positively impacts student achievement.

Who will be required to earn continuing learning units?

As of July 1, 2002 all new teachers and leaders with a Level 2 or Level 3 Professional License must earn 150 CLUs over a course of five years. In addition, “not-new” teachers **may** choose to use CLUs to become highly qualified. They will need to earn 90 CLUs by May 2007. It is always best practice for **all** professionals to show evidence of continued professional growth.

Are the CLU requirements for highly qualified and re-licensure the same?

NO. Although there are some similarities in the requirements, there are also some key differences.

First, for purposes of meeting the definition of highly qualified through the HOUSSE definition, the teacher must complete 90 CLUs by the end of the 2006-2007 school year. However, a candidate seeking to renew his/her Level 2 or 3 license must accumulate 150 CLUs every five years. **Second**, the focus of the CLUs for meeting the highly qualified requirements are more limited in focus/scope and must be specific to the subject/content area(s) of the teacher’s teaching assignment and to the area in which the teacher is seeking to demonstrate content mastery. On the other hand, CLUs for re-licensure may cross a broader range of educational areas.

Do CLUs transfer from one school district to another?

At this time, there is no uniform statewide tracking of CLUs. Each school district has its own policies and procedures.

What is the Electronic Registrar Online?

ERO is a web-based service that tracks CLUs. Each teacher has a transcript on this system. As you earn CLUs they are added to your individual transcript. It is the teachers’ responsibility to ensure that their transcript is up-to-date.

Is my highly qualified status automatically updated?

NO. It is the teacher’s responsibility to request a reassessment of highly qualified status through the Office of Human Resources. The required form is available online.