

Frequently Asked Questions about Contracts, Licensure and Highly Qualified Status

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What is the difference between Contract Status and License Status?

All certified personnel have a *Contract Status* and a *License Status*. Your contract is issued by Greenville County Schools while your license is issued by the South Carolina State Department of Education. Your contract status issued by Greenville County Schools is based upon the status of your license through the SC State Department of Education.

What are the contract status options?

The following represent the most common contract status options.

Internship: Internship contracts are issued to teachers who are completing a degree program from an approved program at a specific institution. For example, the Teacher-to-Teacher candidates from Furman University are issued Internship contracts.

Induction: Induction contracts are issued to new graduates or those who have less than one year of teaching experience. An induction contract is required for all educators, except for experienced out-of-state or nonpublic school teachers.

Annual: Annual contracts are issued to educators who have completed an induction-contract year and hold an initial certificate or educators who have at least one year experience from a non-public school setting. Additionally, an educator can be issued an annual contract if out of state reciprocity is used to receive a SC certificate but a passing PLT exam is not on file at the SDE. Annual contracts are also issued to educators returning to teaching following ADEPT-related state sanctions. An educator has a maximum of four years to complete Professional Certificate requirements in order to move to a continuing contract. If Professional Certificate requirements have not be met within four years under an Annual Contract, no further contract can be issued.

Continuing: A Continuing contract is issued to those who have successfully completed a formal evaluation at the annual-contract level and have fulfilled all requirements for a professional teaching certificate. A continuing contract may also be issued to individuals who hold a valid teaching certificate and have been employed under a previous continuing contract.

At-Will: At-Will Letters are issued as letters of agreement rather than contracts. In order to receive credit for a school year, the teacher must have worked 152 days. If a teacher is hired with less than 152 days left in the school year, an At-Will letter is issued. In this case, the number of days worked will be reported to the SDE and applied to the educator's certificate experience.

What are the License Status options?

The following represent the most common License Status options.

Initial Certificate-

An initial certificate is issued to new graduates who have also passed the Praxis, and out of state certificate holders who have less than three years of experience. Initial certificates are valid for three years. Beyond the initial three-year validity period, teachers who have not met the requirements for professional certification, but who are employed by a public school district at the annual contract level may have their certificate extended annually at the request of the school district.

Professional Certificate-

A professional certificate is valid for 5 years and is issued to those who have completed the SC SDE requirements to advance from Initial to Professional or for out of state certificate holders who have at least three years of experience.

A Note on Highly Qualified Status:

All teachers in all public schools who provide the primary instruction in core academic subjects must be highly qualified. A highly qualified teacher must 1) have earned at least a bachelor's degree, 2) demonstrate content knowledge in each core content area he or she teaches, and 3) have full state certification appropriate for the teaching assignment.

Once you have been issued a valid SC teaching certificate, you must have your file evaluated for HQ status by submitting a [Request for Change/Action](#) form to the SCDE:

For more information on specific requirements needed to become Highly Qualified visit:

http://ed.sc.gov/agency/ac/FederalandStateAccountability/TitleII/documents/Quick_Facts_about_Highly_Qualified_Teachers.pdf