



## Immersion Teacher Recruitment

### Immersion Teacher Certification K-6

In order to ensure the highest quality instruction and academic achievement in students in both languages, careful consideration has been given to determining the certification requirements for the Chinese-speaking and Spanish-speaking teachers who are providing instruction in math, science, portions of social studies, and immersion language arts. Given that the immersion teacher must have a strong understanding of the elementary learner and of teaching elementary content, as well as knowledge of language acquisition and development of students, the following requirements are in place for immersion language teachers:

#### **LICENSE and CERTIFICATE Requirements (hold or be eligible for all of the following)**

- Delaware Teaching License
- Elementary Education (K-6) OR Early Childhood Education (Birth-2) [ECE valid grades K-2 only]
- World Language (K-12) OR Bilingual (K-12) in the immersion language

#### **LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY Recommendations**

- Advanced-Mid Level proficiency in the immersion language as defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and evidenced by a nationally-normed assessment instrument, i.e. ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI).

A **Delaware Teaching License** is required for all teachers in Delaware. Educators seeking a license must take and pass a “general knowledge exam” in reading, writing, and mathematics and fulfill other requirements as defined in Delaware Code and Regulation 1510. Reciprocity may exist for educators who currently hold a Standard Certificate from another state. Additional documentation is required to complete the initial application for a Delaware Teaching License. Details can be found via the Delaware Educator Data System (DEEDS). Additional requirements may exist depending on each educator’s background and experience.

An **Elementary Education (K-6) Certificate** is required for all educators teaching in grades Kindergarten through 6 in Delaware. Effective September 1, 2014, educators seeking the Elementary Education certificate must take and pass *Praxis Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects* (test code 5001). (Educators who have previously taken a different Elementary test should check with the Office of Certification to determine whether or not the specific test and scores meet current Delaware requirements.) Additional requirements may exist depending on each educator’s background and experience.

**One of the following is required** for all elementary immersion teachers:

- A **World Language (K-12) Certificate**, which presumes content knowledge and instructional pedagogy, may be used to satisfy the “language instruction” requirement for elementary immersion teachers. In order to secure the World Language (K-12) certificate, educators may either take and pass the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and Writing Proficiency Test (WPT) OR take and pass the *Praxis II* test for the language they will be teaching. Educators choosing the *Praxis II* route should take either *Praxis II Spanish: World Language* (test code 5195) or *Praxis II Chinese (Mandarin): World Language* (test code 5665). Passing scores are defined in Regulation 1565. Additional requirements may exist depending on each educator’s background and experience.

OR



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- A **Bilingual (K-12) Certificate**, which presumes content knowledge and instructional pedagogy, may be used to satisfy the “language instruction” requirement for elementary immersion teachers. In order to secure the Bilingual (K-12) certification, educators must demonstrate oral and written proficiency in English and in the target language they will be teaching. Educators seeking Bilingual Spanish must achieve a minimum score of Advanced Mid on the ACTFL OPI and Advanced Mid on the ACTFL WPT. Educators seeking Bilingual Chinese must achieve a minimum score of Advanced Mid on the ACTFL OPI and Advanced Low on the ACTFL WPT. Educators are also required to provide evidence of completion of 15 credits of coursework as defined in Regulation 1561. Additional requirements may exist depending on each educator’s background and experience. (NOTE: DOE policy is to accept a Bachelors or higher degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution as proof of English oral and written proficiency.)

### The Importance of LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

While there is some correlation between the *Praxis II* language tests and the ACTFL Proficiency scale, the speaking sections of the *Praxis II* language tests are limited to at most three two-minute interactions. Given the limited “measure” of spoken language in the *Praxis II*, districts are strongly encouraged to require that immersion candidates provide evidence/documentation of **Advanced-Level proficiency through the ACTFL OPI**. Such documentation helps to provide assurance that the candidate has the ability for sustained oral language production in a variety of situations, abilities needed to teach academic content the entire day in either language. Districts may choose to waive this requirement when hiring teachers who have completed schooling and/or an undergraduate or graduate degree in a country where the immersion language is spoken and where instruction occurred in that language.

### Certification RESOURCES

Educators seeking positions in immersion programs in Delaware should familiarize themselves with DEEDS, the online system used to apply for certification. They should also maintain close and open communication with the building principal, the district office of Human Resources, and the Office of Certification to ensure that they meet all requirements and are able to obtain certification as quickly as possible.

The following links provide additional information and guidance for educators seeking certification in Delaware:

To apply on DEEDS for Delaware educator credentials:

[https://deeds.doe.k12.de.us/certificate/deeds\\_ia\\_instruct.aspx](https://deeds.doe.k12.de.us/certificate/deeds_ia_instruct.aspx)

To see a current list of Delaware-approved Praxis tests:

<http://www.ets.org/praxis/de/requirements>

To read current Professional Standards Board regulations governing licensure and certification:

<http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title14/1500/index.shtml>

To learn more about requirements for candidates who hold Non-US credentials (certificates or degrees from foreign countries):

[https://deeds.doe.k12.de.us/certificate/deeds\\_nonuscred.aspx](https://deeds.doe.k12.de.us/certificate/deeds_nonuscred.aspx)

To learn about alternative routes to certification:

[https://deeds.doe.k12.de.us/registration/deeds\\_reg\\_artc.aspx](https://deeds.doe.k12.de.us/registration/deeds_reg_artc.aspx)