



Proposed Amendments to Teaching Assistant Certification

FEBRUARY 2025

BOARD OF REGENTS
MEETING



Current Teaching Assistant Certificates



Currently, there are four types of Teaching Assistant (TA) certificates, two of which are renewable.

Requirements	Level I	Level I Renewal	Level II	Level III	Pre-Professional	Pre-Professional Renewal
Education	HS Diploma		9 S.H.	18 S.H.	18 S.H. + enrolled in a preparation program	Additional 30 S.H. + enrolled in a preparation program
Exam	Assessment of Teaching Assistant Skills (ATAS)			ATAS	ATAS	
Experience		School District Recommendation	One year TA	One year TA or teacher	One year TA	
Validity Period	3 years	3 years	3 years	Continuously valid	5 years	5 years

Current TA Certificate Scopes of Practice

Level I, II, and III TA Certificate

Teaching assistants assist teachers by performing duties such as:

1. working with individual pupils or groups of pupils on special instructional projects;
2. providing the teacher with information about pupils that will assist the teacher in the development of appropriate learning experiences;
3. assisting pupils in the use of available instructional resources, and assisting in the development of instructional materials;
4. utilizing their own special skills and abilities by assisting in instructional programs in such areas as: foreign languages, arts, crafts, music and similar subjects; and
5. assisting in related instructional work as required.

Pre-Professional TA Certificate

Additionally, teaching assistants holding a Pre-Professional TA certificate may, at the discretion of the employing district, and while under the general supervision of a teacher, perform such duties as:

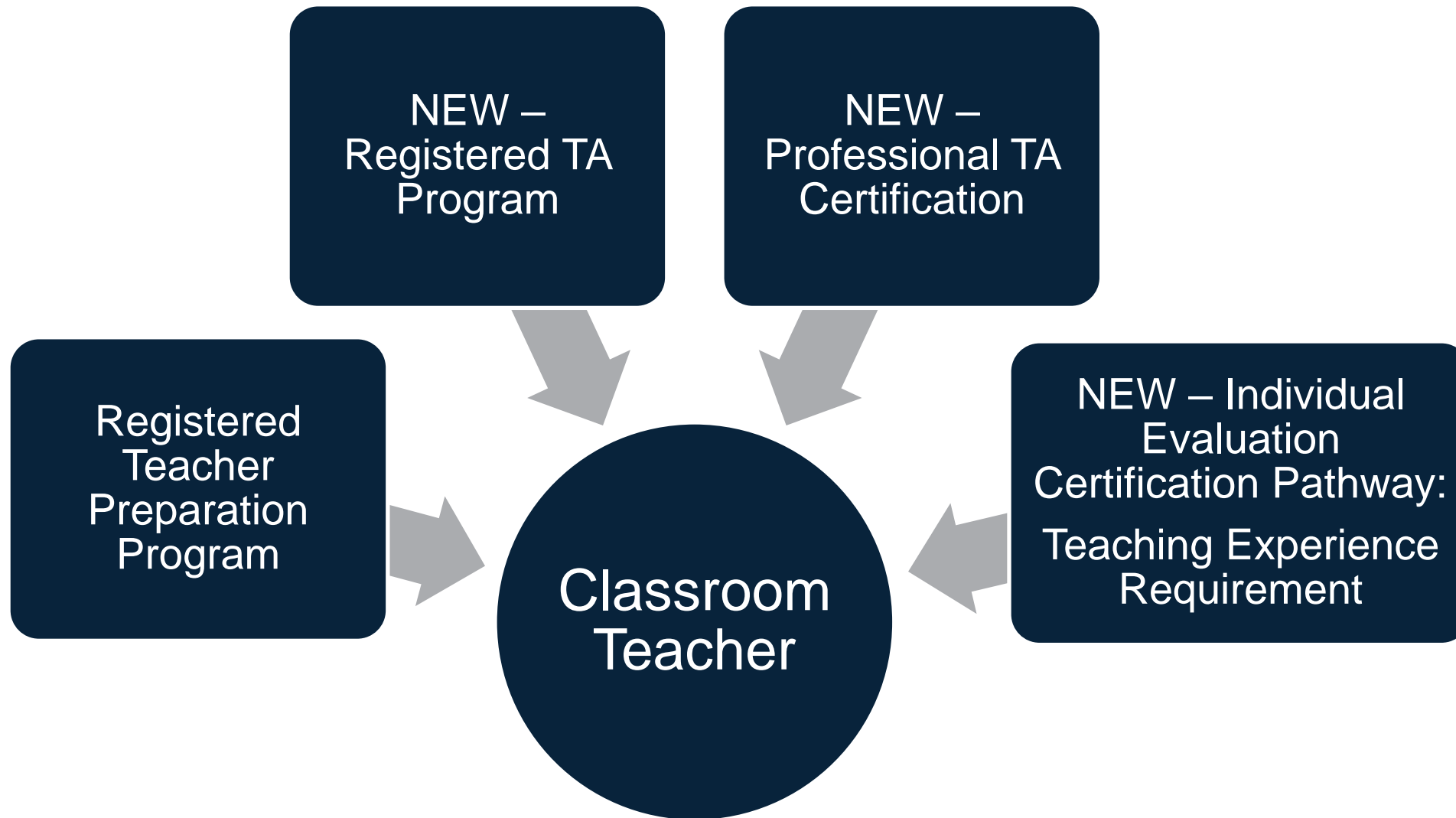
1. working with small groups of children so the teacher can work with a large group or individual children;
2. helping a teacher to construct a lesson plan;
3. presenting segments of lesson plans, as directed by the teacher;
4. communicating with parents of students at a school site or as otherwise directed by a teacher; and
5. helping a teacher to train other teaching assistants.

Proposed New TA Certificates

The proposed Initial and Professional TA certificates would replace the current Level I, Level I Renewal, Level II, and Level III TA certificates.

Requirements	Initial TA Certificate	Professional TA Certificate
Education	HS Diploma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor's degree, or • Complete a registered TA program, or • HS diploma and 18 S.H. of specified pedagogical/subject area coursework
Exam	ATAS, except for candidates who hold or held a teaching certificate and passed a content knowledge certification exam	ATAS, except for candidates who hold or held a teaching certificate and passed a content knowledge certification exam
Experience		Three years TA or one year teacher
Scope of Practice	Same as current Level I, II, and III TA	Same as Pre-Professional TA (expanded)
Validity Period	5 years, continually renewable with 100 hours of CTLE	Continuously valid, subject to registration and CTLE requirements

Creating a Teaching Assistant to Teacher Pathway



Professional TA Certificate

The 18 S.H. option for the Professional TA certificate includes pedagogical coursework that is consistent with the pedagogical core requirement for the individual evaluation pathway to Initial teacher certification:

Education

- **18 S.H., at least 9 of which must be pedagogical coursework in the following subject areas:**
 - **human development and learning;**
 - **teaching students with disabilities and special health-care needs;**
 - **teaching literacy skills;**
 - **curriculum, instruction, and assessment, including instructional technology; and**
 - **foundations of education (historical, philosophical, sociological, and/or legal).**
- **The remaining semester hours must be additional pedagogical coursework in one or more of the above subjects and/or coursework in English language arts, mathematics, science, and/or social studies.**

Registered Teaching Assistant Programs

The proposed rule would allow institutions of higher education to register programs that lead to the Professional TA certificate.

Admissions

Candidates must hold a high school diploma or its equivalent.

Coursework

Same 18 semester hour option for Professional TA certification.

Certification

The institution must recommend the candidate for the Pre-Professional TA certificate upon enrollment. Candidates must meet program requirements for an institutional recommendation for Professional TA certification.

Pre-Professional TA Certificate

The optional Pre-Professional TA certificate is **another pathway** for candidates to pursue the Initial teaching certificate or proposed Professional TA certificate and would have more flexible eligibility requirements:

**Matriculation
in a Teacher
Preparation
Program**

**Matriculation
in a Teaching
Assistant
Program**

**Meet the
Professional
TA Education
Requirement**

Timeline

If adopted at the July 2025 Board of Regents meeting, the following timeline would be used to phase in the new certificate structure.

Date	Activity
July 30, 2025	Candidates may apply for the Initial TA and Professional TA certificates, and institutions of higher education may apply to register Teaching Assistant programs.
August 31, 2025	Last day for candidates to apply for a Level I TA certificate.
December 31, 2025	Last day for candidates to qualify for a Level I TA certificate, provided that Level I certificates may be renewed on one occasion on or before February 1, 2029.
August 31, 2028	Last day for candidates to apply for a Level II TA certificate.
December 31, 2028	Last day for candidates to qualify for a Level II TA certificate.
August 31, 2031	Last day for candidates to apply for a Level III TA certificate.
December 31, 2031	Last day for candidates to qualify for a Level III TA certificate. Candidates need to hold, or have held, a Level I, Level II, Emergency COVID-19 TA certificate to obtain Level III TA certification or a continuing certificate authorizing employment as a teaching assistant.