

# Alternative Pathways to Become a Teacher

## GATE: Greenville Alternative Teacher Education Program

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### Overview:

GATE is designed to increase the number of exceptional math, science, French, and Spanish teachers in Greenville County Schools. In partnership with Public Education Partners (PEP), GATE provides rigorous preparation in best educational practices to individuals who have a strong commitment to teach and a bachelor's degree with a major or emphasis in the content area.

### How it works:

If selected for the three-year program, you will become a GATE Teacher. You will have your own classroom, receive a teacher salary, and participate in ongoing, specialized professional development and coursework. In addition, you will receive individualized support and supervision from a Teacher Support Team who is dedicated to your growth as a teacher. Upon successful completion of the program you will receive a full, professional license to teach in the state of South Carolina.

### Program Requirements:

- A bachelor's degree, with a major or emphasis in math, science, French or Spanish from a regionally accredited college or university
- A cleared status from the South Carolina Department of Education
- A minimum 2.75 cumulative GPA
- An official passing score on the PRAXIS specialty area content examination
- A minimum 3-year commitment to teach in Greenville County Schools

### Contact:

Deb Lee - [dslee@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:dslee@greenville.k12.sc.us)

## PACE: Program of Alternative Certification for Educators

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### Overview:

The Program of Alternative Certification for Educators (PACE) was established to enable degreed individuals, who otherwise do not meet certification requirements, to gain employment in the public schools in a PACE approved subject area teaching position.

### How it works:

Prior to year one, the teacher successfully completes the pre-service training and issued his or her alternative route certificate. Please note that there is a \$250 materials fee for pre-service training. During year one, the teacher continues the required training and may begin taking the required PACE coursework. All coursework must be from the list of pre-approved courses or formally approved by the SDE. Between year 1 and 2, the teacher completes the in-service training and continues working on the three required college courses. There is an additional \$250 materials fee for in-service training. During

year 2, the teacher completes the required training seminars, continues working on the three required college courses, and successfully completes the Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Professional Teaching (ADEPT) formal evaluation process. At year three, the teacher submits official transcripts reflecting completion of three required college courses to the SDE, submits a passing score on the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) exam appropriate to the teacher's certification grade level, successfully completes the ADEPT formal evaluation process, and applies for professional certification.

### Program Requirements:

- Did not teach in a traditional teacher preparation program
- A bachelor's degree that matches eligible certification area
- An official passing score on the PRAXIS specialty area content examination
- A cleared status from the South Carolina Department of Education
- A 3-year commitment to the content area and grade level for which you are admitted

**Contact:** South Carolina Department of Education / [altcertification@ed.sc.gov](mailto:altcertification@ed.sc.gov) / (877) 885-5280

## ABCTE: American Board Certification

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### Overview:

South Carolina recognizes certification through the American Board in English, mathematics, and the sciences. Candidates who earn ABCTE certification are eligible to seek and accept employment in South Carolina while completing the requirements for full certification, such as completing a master's degree, or in a core subject that includes an approved certification program.

### How it works:

American Board's teacher certification program is entirely online and self-paced. This is not a state sponsored certification and has a cost associated with the program. See website for pricing.

### Requirements:

Requirements vary by state, but are very similar to other programs.

**Contact:** [American Board Website](#)

## CATE: Career and Technology Education Work Based Certification

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### Overview:

The Career and Technology Education (CATE) Work-Based Certification program enables individuals with work experience in career and technology areas who do not meet the regular certification requirements to be eligible for employment as a 9-12 grade level teacher in a South Carolina public school district.

### How it works:

Candidates will have a maximum of five (5) certification years (July 1 - June 30) to complete all work-based certification program requirements and earn a Professional work-based teaching certificate. Some of the requirements include in-service training, WorkKeys Basic Skills Assessments, and successfully

completing the ADEPT Evaluation. Details are outlined on the South Carolina State Department website.

### Requirements:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Earned a minimum of a high school diploma or GED
- Meet the minimum education and work experience requirement for the requested area of certification
- A cleared status from the South Carolina Department of Education

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## Teachers of Tomorrow

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### Overview:

During the 2017 legislative session, the General Assembly authorized Teachers of Tomorrow as a non-traditional or alternative route to certification for individuals with a least a bachelor's degree but who have not completed a teacher preparation program. Teachers of Tomorrow was founded in response to a growing teacher shortage and is South Carolina's first approved for-profit alternative route teacher preparation provider.

### How it works:

The online teacher training will guide candidates through classroom management, effective instruction techniques, child development, strategies for non-English learners, and much more. Teacher candidates will typically complete 90 hours of classroom readiness training, prior to their first day of teaching, and the remaining coursework during the first year teaching. This is not a state sponsored certification and has a cost associated with the program. See website for pricing.

### Requirements:

- A bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution
- Minimum 2.5 GPA
- Successful scores on PRAXIS Reading, Writing, and Mathematics and PRAXIS content area
- Clear background check

**Contact:** [Teachers of Tomorrow Website](#)