

### **Qualifications for Online Instructors:**

At its May 26, 2016 meeting, the Board of Education approved the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's recommendation to revise the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* (Final Stage), authorize the Department of Education staff to make technical edits and continue the procedures of the Administrative Process Act, and grant a one-year transition period for the implementation of new regulations. Here is a link to the agenda item: <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2016/05-may/agenda-items/item-c.pdf>

The new regulations will include an "online teacher license". The pending regulations may be viewed in their entirety beginning on page 4 of the agenda item link provided above.

### **8VAC20-23-10. Definitions.**

"Online Teacher License" means a five-year, renewable license valid only for teaching online courses. Teachers who hold a five-year renewable license issued by the Virginia Board of Education may teach online courses for which they are properly endorsed and do not need to seek this license.

### **8VAC20-23-50. Types of licenses; dating licenses.**

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a. The individual is required to meet requirements for an endorsement in a content (teaching) area, professional studies requirements, and qualifying scores on professional teacher's assessments as prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education. In addition, the individual must complete a three-semester-hour course in online instructional procedures.

Online instructional procedures: 3 semester hours. Skills in this area shall contribute to an understanding of the principles of online learning and online instructional strategies and the application of skills in the ability to use the Internet for teaching, learning, and management; design, deliver, and support instruction in an online environment; adapt strategies for a variety of course models (e.g., synchronous and asynchronous); select, adapt, and create rich multimedia for instruction; adapt individualized education program requirements to online course practices, as appropriate; use data to meet individual students' needs; and employ innovative teaching strategies in an online environment. Demonstrated proficiency of advanced skills in the following must be addressed: use of communication technologies to interact with and engage students, parents, and mentors; use of education technologies; management of instructional activities in a technology-mediated environment; and nontraditional content delivery methods.

b. Online teaching experience is not acceptable to meet the full-time teaching experience for other license types, such as a Division Superintendent License, or for endorsements, such as for the reading specialist, school counselor, or administration and supervision endorsements. The Online Teacher

License may be issued if requirements have been met as one of the following licenses to individuals teaching only online courses:

(1) Online Teacher (Postgraduate Professional) License - a five-year, renewable license available to an individual who has qualified for the Online Teacher (Collegiate Professional) License and who holds an appropriate earned graduate degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

(2) Online Teacher (Collegiate Professional) License - a five-year, renewable teaching license available to an individual who has satisfied all requirements for licensure, including an earned baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university, endorsement and professional studies requirements, and the professional teacher's assessments prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education, or

(3) Online Teacher (Technical Professional) License - a five-year, renewable teaching license available to an individual who has graduated from an accredited high school or possesses a [General Educational Development Certificate Virginia

### **Current Teachers**

In addition to the requirement for the online license, the professional studies requirements of the teacher licensure requirements do require the following competency under the curriculum and instructional procedures requirement. A course is not required for all teachers but instruction is to be included by Virginia colleges and universities.

8VAC20-23-130. Professional studies requirements

Understanding of the principles of online learning and online instructional strategies and the application of skills to deliver online instruction must be included.