

Certification Fee Change Frequently Asked Questions

Revised 3/10/2010

1. When will the new fees go into effect?

The new fees go into effect on July 1, 2010. Any application received by the Department on or after July 1, 2010 must include the new fee.

2. What are the new fees?

The new fees are as follows:

Application Type	New Fee - July 1, 2010	Old Fee
In-State (Program completed at a PA College/University) Instructional Educational Specialist Administrative/Supervisory/LOE	\$100	\$40
Emergency Permits Type 01, 04, 08 Type 06 (upload or paper)	\$100 \$5	\$40 \$0 and \$40
Out-of-State (Program completed outside PA) Instructional Educational Specialist Administrative/Supervisory/LOE	\$160	\$80
Program Specialist	\$100	\$40
Resource Specialist	\$100	\$40
Instructional Add-On	\$100	\$40
Level II	\$100	\$40
MEQs/BEQs	\$100	\$40
TTP Conversion	\$100	\$40
Duplicate Certificate	\$50	\$40
Name/Address Change	\$0	\$0
Act 48 Extension Request	\$0	\$0
Voluntary Inactivation/Removal	\$75	\$40
Deletion of Certificate Area	\$75	\$40
Certificate of Preliminary Education (Nurse, Funeral Director)	\$50	\$15
Private Academic	\$75	\$15
Public Librarian	\$0	\$0

3. Why are the fees changing?

Fees are changing to cover the cost of evaluating and issuing certificates.

4. What will PDE do with the revenue generated by the certification fee increase?

PDE is streamlining the process for receiving and evaluating applications for certification, including the development of an on-line application. By streamlining the process, the time period between receipt of an application and a response from PDE will decrease. In addition, PDE is improving its customer service by website access for teachers, cross training staff, and establishing a call center.

5. Will I be required to pay a fee every five years to maintain my certificate as active when I complete my Act 48 continuing education requirements?

No.

6. How do Pennsylvania's fees compare to other states?

Pennsylvania will join five other states that currently charge the same amount (Arkansas, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Oregon and Wisconsin). Even with this change, Pennsylvania fees remain lower than other states. Vermont has the highest fee at \$280 per application.

Additionally, some states charge annual or on-going certification fees for teachers, while Pennsylvania's fees remain a one-time expense for submitting an application. For example, other states in the Northeast charge fees at the time of application and throughout a teacher's career. Assuming a 30 year teaching career, Pennsylvania's teacher certification fees total \$200 (\$100 for an Instructional I and \$100 for an Instructional II). As noted in the following table, in Connecticut, New Hampshire and Vermont, a 30 year teaching career requires the payment of fees throughout a career totaling \$1,500, \$1,300 and \$1,280 respectively.

State	Fee
Connecticut	\$1,500
New Hampshire	\$1,300
Vermont	\$1,280
Rhode Island	\$625
Massachusetts	\$300
<i>Pennsylvania</i>	<i>\$200</i>

7. How do Pennsylvania's fees for a teaching certificate compare to other professional licensure or certification fees in the Commonwealth?

Within Pennsylvania, many certification or licensing fees paid by other professionals over a 30 year career far exceed the \$200 fees paid by teachers. For example, Funeral Directors pay \$4,565, Auctioneers pay \$2,850, Car Salespersons pay \$1,285, and Social Workers pay \$1,075 over a 30 year period.

Profession	Initial License	Biennial Renewal	Total Career Fees
Funeral Director	\$15	\$325	\$4,565
Auctioneer	\$50	\$200	\$2,850
Accountant	\$65	\$100	\$1,465
Architect	\$40	\$100	\$1,440
Car Salesperson	\$25	\$90	\$1,285
Social Worker	\$25	\$75	\$1,075
Barber	\$10	\$42	\$598
Teacher	-	-	\$200

8. Currently, day-to-day substitute emergency permits are electronically uploaded by LEAs and no fee is charged. Will the current Type 06 Day-to-Day Emergency Permit fee be waived until the implementation of the new electronic teacher certification system?

No. PDE will “bill” LEAs annually “collecting” the fees by withholding the amount from the LEA’s subsidy. Further details are forthcoming.

9. Will the same fee apply to all Permit applications?

No. The fee for Type 06 permits (Day-to-Day, Internet Uploads, Guest Teacher) is \$5.00. A Type 06 permit may be requested for “all subject areas” or for a single subject area. A \$5.00 fee will be assessed for each permit requested.

The fee for Type 01, 04 and 08 permits (Long Term Substitutes, Exchange Teachers) is \$100.00, the same as the in-state fee.

10. Current policy provides that Type 06 permits for vocational areas may be issued for up to 4 subject areas. Has the policy changed to allow an application for “all vocational subject areas”?

Yes. The policy has changed to allow an application for “all vocational subject areas” for Type 06 permits. The new policy allowing Type 06 applications for “all vocational subject areas” is now consistent with the policy for Type 06 applications for “all subject areas” submitted by school districts.

11. Current policy states that public school entities must wait until August 1 to submit Emergency Permit applications for the upcoming school year. Can an Emergency Permit application for the 2010-2011 school year be submitted prior to July 1, 2010 before the new fees come into effect?

Yes. Public school entities may submit Emergency Permit applications for the 2010-2011 school year prior to July 1, 2010. The Emergency Permit application will be date stamped when received. However, the application will not be processed until August 1, 2010. **Note** – This applies to paper applications only. Internet uploads received prior to August 1, 2010 will be issued for the 2009-2010 school year.

12. Why are out-of-state applicants charged more than an in-state applicant?

Out-of-state applications are more complex, time consuming, and require more in-depth review.

13. What fee will apply to the English as Second Language (ESL) Program Specialist certificate?

The in-state fee will apply to applicants currently holding a Pennsylvania certificate who are applying for a Program Specialist certificate, Endorsement or Concentration area. The out-of-state fee will apply to individuals who do not currently hold a Pennsylvania certificate.