

PA Department of Education

Act 48 FAQ

Beginning July 1, 2000, Act 48 of 1999 requires persons holding Pennsylvania professional educator certification to complete continuing education requirements every five years in order to maintain their certificates in active status.

Who is affected by Act 48? All educators holding Pennsylvania public school certification including Instructional I and II, Educational Specialist I and II, Administrative, Supervisory, Letters of Eligibility and all vocational certificates, employed or not.

How can I view my progress toward meeting Act 48 requirements PDE's Professional Educator Record Management System (PERMS) system keep track of my Act 48 hours?

To view your progress in meeting your Act 48 requirements, go to the [PERMS webpage](https://www.education.pa.gov/Educators/ContinuinEd/Act%2048%20and%20PERMS/Pages/default.aspx). <https://www.education.pa.gov/Educators/ContinuinEd/Act%2048%20and%20PERMS/Pages/default.aspx> Once there, enter your Professional Personnel Identification (PPID) number in the box provided. Your Act 48 reporting period information will be displayed.

Whose responsibility is it to monitor an educator's credits or hours, and/or correct discrepancies in an educator's reported hours or credits? It is the responsibility of the educators to monitor their record of credits or hours on PERMS during the five-year period. It is also their responsibility to contact the provider(s) to correct any discrepancies in credits or hours reported.

What must educators do to comply with Act 48? Educators must earn six credits of collegiate study; or six credits of PDE-approved continuing professional education courses; or 180 hours of continuing professional education programs, activities or learning experiences through a PDE approved provider; or any combination of the above every five years to maintain active certification status.

When does the five-year period begin? The five-year period begins on the effective date of issuance of the educator's initial Instructional I certificate. The requirements will be renewed at the end of each five-year period. Each individual's assigned five-year period is based on the date of issuance of his/her Instructional I certificate, or the date of implementation of Act 48 on July 1, 2000, whichever is later.

How will educators and public school entities know when the five-year period is over? At least 12 months prior to the end of the five-year period, PDE will notify both the educator and the public school entity regarding the continuing education status and remaining credit hours, if any, which need to be completed. An additional notification of certification status will be sent at the end of the five-year period, therefore it is important that PDE has a current name and address for each educator.

Does earning Act 48 credits/hours apply to Instructional I and Instructional II teachers?

Yes. Regardless whether an educator's teaching certificate status is temporary or permanent Act 48 hours/credits must be met every 5 years.

Can the credits earned for Level II Certification or a Letter of Master's/Bachelor's Equivalency be applied toward the requirements of Act 48? Collegiate credits and continuing professional education credits from Pennsylvania's intermediate units may be applied to the

continuing education requirements if earned during the current Act 48 compliance period. The credits must relate to the educator's area of assignment/certification or within a program leading to administrative certification. *The submission of these credits/hours, must be done the university or Intermediate Unit and not the responsibility of your school district.*

Can continuing education hours, continuing education units, or community college credits be applied toward obtaining a Level II Certificate or Letter of Master's/Bachelor's Equivalency? No. Only credits from an accredited four-year degree granting college or university and continuing professional education courses from Pennsylvania's intermediate units may be accepted toward a Level II Certificate or Letter of Master's/Bachelor's Equivalency.

Must educators who hold public school certification but are serving in private or nonpublic (religious) schools comply with the provisions of Act 48? Yes. The provisions of Act 48 apply to all educators holding Pennsylvania public school certificates. To keep their certificates active, educators employed in private or nonpublic schools must comply with Act 48. Active teaching certification is not required by law for an educator to teach in a private/nonpublic school classroom. However, it is important to note that many private/nonpublic schools, at their discretion, require their professional educators to maintain their Instructional I or II certificates in active status by completing continuing education credits or activities. Employment by public school entities in a capacity that requires teaching certification necessitates the completion of the Act 48 requirements.

Whose responsibility is it to submit documentation of Act 48 credits/hours to PDE?

Act 48 providers submit the credits/hours earned by the educators to PDE. PDE's policy is that credits and hours should be submitted within 30 days of completion. However, the educator is responsible for making a college or university aware that he/she wants the credits reported to PDE. Educators should contact their Pennsylvania college's registrar for procedures to ensure credits will be submitted via direct electronic upload to the department (by requesting Act 48 credit for those courses the educator has completed.) Collegiate credits earned outside of Pennsylvania must be submitted via an official college-sealed transcript mailed to:

Act 48 Transcripts, Division of Planning
Pennsylvania Department of Education
333 Market Street, 3rd Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

The department will only accept transcripts received directly from out-of-state higher education institutions.

Effective January 1, 2015, PDE began accepting electronic transcripts (eTranscripts) from out-of-state institutions of higher education for the purpose of documenting completion of Act 48 continuing professional education requirements. eTranscripts are submitted by the out-of-state institution to PDE via the following email address: ra-edact48etrscrpt@pa.gov