



Interim Route to Certification information for the Nevada State Board of Education

Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement
Commission on Professional Standards in Education

Purpose

The purpose of this document provides an overview of updates to the process by which county school districts and charter schools may allow existing teachers with a valid provisional (non-ARL), standard or professional teaching license in early childhood, elementary, middle school, secondary, special education, or special teaching licenses to apply for an endorsement in special education and be placed in a special education assignment area for three years while they are completing coursework requirements for that endorsement area. The teacher must also complete at least two years of instruction in that assignment area and receive effective evaluations from their employer for those two years. Requirements are similar to the ARL program, but this is a pathway for existing teachers to obtain special education licensure.

Background

The Options program began with No Child Left Behind (NCLB). There was a High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE) process to become highly qualified. Options does not live anywhere in Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) or Nevada Administrative Code (NAC).

Late 2018, The Office of Educator Licensure started an Alternative Route to Certification (ARC) pilot. Existing teachers with a valid provisional (non-ARL), standard or professional teaching license in early childhood, elementary, middle school, secondary, special education, or special teaching licenses went through their district's Alternative Route to Certification (ARC) program to obtain an ARC license in a special education area. This was only piloted in one district. There was a separate license application (Add ARC) in the Online Portal for Application and Licensure (OPAL) with a fee of \$180 and a required background check. The ARC license was issued as a separate three-year license with a different expiration date. Since the teacher held a special education license, the district was not required to report the teacher as out-of-field.

October 2022

The ARC was renamed Interim Route to Certification (IRC). IRC is no longer a separate license. Instead, it was issued as an additional endorsement. The Add ARC license application in OPAL has been removed. Teachers will use the additional endorsement application. The \$180 fee is now \$50 to match the additional endorsement fee. A new background check is not required. The teacher has three years to complete requirements of the IRC program. Employers may add additional employment agreements to the IRC agreement form. The Options program was phased out and replaced with IRC.



IRC Application Process

- Applicant will contact district or charter school Human Resources (HR) for the IRC agreement form
- Applicant and building principal will sign the IRC agreement
- A district or charter school HR representative will sign the agreement and provide OPAL instructions to the applicant
- Applicant will complete and submit an Additional Endorsement application in OPAL for the special education endorsement area listed on IRC agreement and submit the completed agreement with the application
- Once the requirements are completed the teacher will submit a provision removal in OPAL by selecting the IRC provision, submit two effective annual employer evaluations and official transcripts with completed coursework for the endorsement

January 17, 2024

Initial draft updating the IRC pathway regulations were discussed at the Commission meeting. The intent of updating regulation language is to clearly define and IRC pathway to obtain a special education endorsement for already licensed educators and to remove the current inadequate pathways in several special education endorsement regulations that currently do not meet requirements. Much of the same language was lifted from the Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) regulation to ensure candidates for this endorsement meet the same requirements to earn the desired endorsement. Careful consideration was given while drafting the regulation to ensure that candidates with this provisional endorsement complete the program within three years.

February 21, 2024

Public Workshop held at a Commission meeting to update NAC Chapter 391.XXX; 391.040; 391.343; 391.360; 391.363; 391.367; 391.378; and 391.090.

September 18, 2024

Public Hearing held at a Commission meeting to consider adopting Regulation 011-24 updating NAC Chapter 391.XXX; 391.040; 391.343; 391.360; 391.363; 391.367; 391.378; and 391.090.

October 2, 2024

State Board Consent Agenda to consider approving adopted Regulation 011-24.

November/December

Legislative Commission Agenda to consider final adoption of Regulation 011-24.