

50-State Survey: Ease of...

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State	Licensure Structure	Governance Structure	Legibility/Clarity/Navigation
Alabama	One type of license (professional educator certificate), but three classes based on education level of applicant; no separate system for admin	Board of Ed adopts rules & stds; Dept of Ed licenses and disciplines; no separate board for admin	all classes of main license are bunched up into one subpart w/tables and tons of footnotes; every other license (flexibility side) has its own subpart
Alaska	Tiered: initial; professional; master. Separate system for admin; naming flexibility certificates and labeling them (Limited Certificate is a/k/a Type M) is confusing and unnecessary	Professional Teaching Practices Commission defines and enforces ethical standards and disciplines generally; the Teacher Education and Certification Office in the Dept of Ed and Early Development licenses; State Board of Education defines school standards; no separate board for admin	each certificate has own subpart; requirements are clearly laid out
Arizona	Two types of licenses (provisional and standard) that are further broken down by grade level (each level w/dif requirements); separate admin licenses (7 types)	State Board of Education responsible for all standards; authority to discipline (via its Professional Practices Advisory Committee); no separate board for admin	multiple certificates in one subpart (e.g., 7 admin licenses in one subpart; 3 secondary certificates in one subpart)
Arkansas	Two types of licenses (provisional and standard); separate admin licenses	State Board of Education sets licensure standards; Office of Teacher Licensure in Dept of Ed issues licenses (Board also listed as issuer...); State Board disciplines; no separate admin board; simple but inconsistencies in terminology	poor organization; multiple types lumped into single statutes/rules; difficult to peruse and find what you're looking for
California	Two types of licenses (provisional and professional credentials) broken down by single- or multiple-subject; dozens of emergency permits; separate administrative services credential	Commission on Teacher Credentialing sets standards and issues credentials (no separate body for admin); the Commission's Committee of Credentials investigates and recommends suspension/revocation to full Commission	In CA rules, under Title 5, Education, there are 13 "Divisions". Under Division 8, Commission on Teacher Credentialing, there are six chapters. Under Chapter 1, Credentials Issued..., there are seven articles. Under Article 2, Credential Types, Authorizations and Requirements, there are 107 sections (excl. 42 renumbered/repealed sections); poorly organized

Colorado	Tiered licenses (initial, professional, and master); separate principal and admin licenses	Dept. of Ed issues licenses; no separate body for admin; State Board of Education sets licensing standards and disciplines	extremely detailed; every "flexibility" license has its own section and clearly defines the purpose, duration, and requirements for each; well organized
Connecticut	Tiered licenses (initial, provisional, and professional); separate licenses for admin	State Board of Education sets standards and issues licenses through Dept of Ed; no separate body for admin; Board disciplines	not well organized (lots of identically-named sections, some of which have been repealed); each license type has own section with detailed requirements, but not great presentation
Delaware	Tiered licenses (initial, continuing, and advanced); no separate admin licenses (admin included in definition of "educator")	Delaware Professional Teaching Standards Board sets teacher/admin licensure standards; Dept. of Ed issues licenses and disciplines (via the Associate Secretary, Administration and Innovation); no separate body for admin; State Board of Education sets policies for Dept	statutes are short and direct reader to rules; rules are long and detailed, but each section has its own definitions subpart
Florida	Only one type of license (professional certificate); separate tiered system for admin	State Board of Ed sets standards; Dept of Ed issues licenses; Education Practices Commission disciplines; no separate body for admin	Rules organized by entity (Dept, Board, Commission, etc.) which is very interesting; otherwise, very detailed, but not easy to navigate
Georgia	Tiered system including pre-service, induction, standard professional, performance-based professional, advanced professional, and lead professional; two categories: renewable and nonrenewable; each license comes with a "level" designation, as well, depending on the teacher's degree; each license is given 1 of 10 different "types", including instructional, leadership, paraprofessional, etc.; no separate tier for admin, but must hold advanced degree ("level 5" or higher) and have a background in leadership ("type L")	Professional Standards Commission sets standards, issues licenses, and disciplines; no separate body for admin	each license type and specialization has its own part in rules; highly detailed breakdowns (incl. "purpose"); licensure appears in Professional Standards Commission chapter, though, not "education"
Hawaii	Tiered licenses (provisional, standard, and advanced); separate training and licensing program for administrators through the Dept. of Ed. (Hawaii Certification Institute for School Leaders)	Teacher Standards Board sets standards and issues licenses, disciplines; Dept. of Ed. licenses admin	minimal info: concise brevity or frustratingly terse?
Idaho	Two types of licenses but inconsistent terminology: initial/interim certificate, and renewable certificate/professional endorsement; separate administrator certificate	Professional Standards Commission disciplines; Dept of Ed issues licenses; State Board of Education sets standards; no separate body for admin	poor organization of rules makes pertinent sections hard to find; all license types lumped into one section; inconsistencies between statute and rule

Illinois	Three types of licenses (professional, professional with stipulations, substitute); no separate admin licenses, but do require specific endorsements (e.g., "principal")	State Board of Education sets standards (w/assist from State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board), issues licenses (via State Superintendent), and disciplines; no separate body for admin	rules well organized; statutes are very detailed (almost as much as rules), which would require amending both if something changed (probably not a great setup)
Indiana	Tiered licenses (transition-to-teaching permit, initial practitioner, practitioner, and accomplished practitioner); separate tier system for admin licenses	Unclear, but it appears the State Board of Education sets teacher prep standards (via Office of Educator Effectiveness and Licensing) though authority is specifically granted to Dept; Dept. issues licenses and disciplines; no separate body for admin	little information in rules, which consist mostly of internal references that quickly become circular
Iowa	Tiered licenses (initial, standard, and master); separate, secondary "class" system for "flexibility" licenses; separate requirements for admin licenses	State Board of Education sets prep standards; Board of Education Examiners sets licensure requirements, issues licenses, and disciplines; no separate body for admin	rules are bare bones but well organized
Kansas	Tiered licenses (initial, professional, and accomplished); no separate tiers for admin licenses, but additional endorsements required	State Board of Education issues licenses and disciplines (Professional Practices Commission investigates complaints and makes recommendations); no separate body for admin; Teaching and School Administration Professional Standards Advisory Board sets prep standards	every license has an entry in sections related to types, endorsements, and requirements, making it difficult to find the license you want and learn all of its characteristics (duration, requirements, etc.)
Kentucky	Two types of certificates (provisional and professional); separate structure for admin licenses	Education Professional Standards Board sets prep standards, issues licenses, and disciplines; no separate body for admin	all types of licenses are lumped into one rule but each "flexibility" license has its own section
Louisiana	Tiered licenses (level 1, level 2, and level 3) with additional types C, B, and A lifetime certificates; separate tiers for admin licenses	Board of Elementary and Secondary Education sets prep standards; Department of Education issues licenses and disciplines; no separate body for admin	chapters are broken down nicely but different license types are lumped together in same sections
Maine	Tiered structure (provisional, professional, master); separate tiers for admin (professional, conditional, interim)	State Board of Education sets prep standards; Department of Education issues licenses and disciplines; no separate body for admin	all types of licenses fall into one section, but each is broken down into function, duration, eligibility, requirements, and renewal
Maryland	Tiered licenses (standard I, standard II, extended standard II, and advanced) but with added wrinkles of "classes", biennial review by county superintendents, and requirement that teachers seek higher levels of licensure; separate tiers for admin (administrator I, administrator II)	Dept of Ed sets prep standards (but State Board of Education w/assist from Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board develop rules for teacher licensure/prep), issues licenses, and disciplines (via State Superintendent of Schools); no separate body for admin	rules are littered with internal cross references making it very difficult to quickly determine what is required to get a license
Massachusetts	Tiered licenses (preliminary, initial, professional); separate tiered licenses for different kinds of administrators (principal, superintendent, business officer, etc.)	Dept of Elementary and Secondary Ed sets prep standards, issues licenses, and disciplines; no separate body for admin	license types are lumped into a single section, making it cluttered, but requirements are clearly laid out

Michigan	Tiered licenses (interim, provisional, professional, and advanced); many separate admin certificates	State Board of Education sets prep standards; Dept of Ed issues licenses and disciplines; no separate body for admin	not much info, very poorly organized
Minnesota	Multiple types of licenses: preliminary, entrance, professional, nonrenewable, temporary limited, limited intern, short-call substitute, etc., etc. etc.; separate admin licenses	Board of Teaching issues sets prep standards, licenses, disciplines; Board of School Administrators sets prep standards, issues licenses, disciplines; Dept of Ed issues licenses;	inconsistencies in terminology, not well organized, licenses all lumped together in one section of rules
Mississippi	Only one type of license (educator license) broken down into four classes based on teacher's degree; separate tiered structure for admin (non-practicing, entry level, career)	Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development makes prep recommendations to State Board of Education, which adopts rules; Dept of Ed issues licenses, disciplines; no separate body for admin	the entirety of Mississippi's rules on teacher licensure appears in a single part
Missouri	Two types of licenses (initial and career continuous) broken down by age group (birth to 3, grades 1-6, etc.); separate admin licenses (initial, transition, career continuous)	State Board of Education sets licensure and prep standards (w/assist from MO Advisory Board for Educator Preparation), issues licenses, disciplines; no separate body for admin	good info in rules, but some organizational deficiencies
Montana	One type of license (standard) that is upgradeable based on teacher's education (class 2 and class 1); 5 additional classes of licensure (provisional, CTE, specialist, etc.); separate class 3 admin license	Board of Public Education approves prep, disciplines; Office of Public Instruction issues licenses; no separate body for admin	each license variation has its own section in rules, but lots of cross references and use of "Class 1 License" or "Class 2 License" makes it difficult to follow what each license actually is
Nebraska	Tiered licenses (initial, standard, and professional); separate tiers for admin licenses (standard and professional)	State Board of Education approves prep programs (w/recs from Commissioner of Education), and disciplines (w/recs from Professional Practices Commission); Dept of Ed issues licenses	all variations of licenses and permits have good info and explanations, but they all appear in the same section
Nevada	License types based on grade level (elementary, middle school/junior high, secondary); separate administrator endorsements required on licenses for admin	State Board of Education approves prep programs, disciplines; Dept of Ed issues licenses; no separate body for admin	each license variant and endorsement has its own section for requirements, which is great for clarity but can be overwhelming for general review
New Hampshire	Tiered licenses (intern, beginning, experienced, master); separate certification for administrators	State Board of Education approves prep programs (w/recs from NH Council for Teacher Education), sets teacher standards, issues licenses, and disciplines; no separate body for admin	all variants of licenses and pathways have own sections for requirements, but are cross-reference heavy
New Jersey	Tiered licenses (certificate of eligibility with advanced standing, provisional, standard); separate admin certificates	Dept of Ed approves prep programs; Board of Examiners issues licenses, disciplines; no separate body for admin	all license variants have their own sections, but lots of cross references

New Mexico	Tiered system (level 1, level 2, level 3-A, level 3-B); separate admin license requires level 2 plus additional training	Public Education Dept issues licenses, disciplines (w/assist from Educator Ethics Bureau or Professional Licensure Bureau); no separate body for admin	each grade level license has its own section and has extensive info re requirements, but no info in rules on the general licensure structure
New York	Two types of licenses (initial and professional); separate licenses for administrators	Dept of Ed issues licenses and disciplines (investigation by Professional Conduct Officer fwd to Professional Standards and Practices Board which fwd recs to Office of Teaching Initiatives in Dept of Ed); no separate body for admin	lots of info in rules; could be better organized
North Carolina	Two types of licenses (standard professional I and II) broken down by classes (based on teacher's degree) and grade level (preK, elementary, middle, secondary, special subjects, workforce development); same licenses for admin but different classes	State Board of Education approves prep programs (w/input from State Evaluation Committee on Teacher Education), disciplines; Dept of Public Instruction issues licenses; no separate body for admin	good info, but use of undefined abbreviations can be confusing at first
North Dakota	Types of licenses (initials and renewals) that are further categorized by level (I, II, and III); separate credentials required for administrators	Education Standards and Practices Board sets prep and licensure standards, issues licenses, disciplines; no separate body for admin, but Department of Public Instruction issues admin licenses	rules are poorly organized and do not clearly explain licensure scheme
Ohio	Tiered licenses (resident, professional, senior, and lead) broken down by age level (elementary, middle, adolescence to young adult); separate licensure structure for admin	State Board of Education sets prep standards, issues licenses, disciplines; no separate body for admin	all license types and requirements are lumped into a single section; good info, but hard to find what you want
Oklahoma	Two basic types of licenses (license, standard certificate) broken down by grade level (preK-3, 1-8, 5-8, 5-12); separate administrator license system	State Board of Education sets prep and licensure standards, disciplines; Dept of Ed issues licenses; no separate body for admin	organized by process steps (application, renewal) rather than license type; difficult to determine requirements and understand scheme
Oregon	Tiered licenses (preliminary, professional, teacher leader, legacy); separate tier for admin licenses (initial, continuing, and distinguished)	Teacher Standards and Practices Commission approves prep programs, sets licensure standards, issues licenses, disciplines; no separate body for admin	each license type has own section with purpose, requirements, duration all clearly explained; separate sections for all endorsements and specializations; rules also include sections on transition to new licensure system
Pennsylvania	Two types (instructional I and II); separate requirements and certificate for admin	State Board of Education approves prep (w/assist from Professional Standards and Practices Commission), disciplines; Dept of Ed issues licenses; no separate body for admin	sorta buried in rules; each type has own section; minimal info, though
Rhode Island	Tiered licenses (initial, professional, advanced); separate admin licenses	Dept of Ed sets standards (State Board of Education adopts rules), issues licenses, disciplines; no separate body for admin	all license types and requirements are lumped into a single section; good info, but hard to find what you want

South Carolina	Two types (initial and professional) further broken down into classifications based on teacher's degree; separate licenses for admin	State Board of Education sets prep and licensure standards, disciplines; Dept of Ed issues licenses; no separate body for admin	all license types, classes, and requirements are lumped into one rule
South Dakota	Somewhat tiered licensure (1-yr, 2-yr, 5-yr, and 10-yr certificates); additional endorsements required for admins	State Board of Education approves prep and licensure; Dept of Ed issues licenses, disciplines (Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission investigates and holds hearings; Professional Administrators Practices and Standards Commission investigates administrator discipline); no separate licensing body for admin	rules are poorly organized and do not have a lot of info
Tennessee	Two basic types of licenses (practitioner and professional); separate tiered structure for admin licenses (instructional leader: aspiring, beginning, professional, and exemplary)	State Board of Education approves prep and licensure, disciplines; Dept of Ed issues licenses; no separate body for admin	all types lumped together, not much info
Texas	Types of licensure (probationary, 1-yr, standard); separate licenses for admin	State Board for Educator Certification (all grunt work, such as site visits, application review, and investigation, done by Texas Education Agency) approves prep and licensure standards, issues licenses, disciplines; no separate body for admin	one section for types of license, one section for general requirements with lots of cross references; clunky organization
Utah	Tiered licensure (levels I, II, and III); separate admin licenses	State Board of Education approves prep programs, issues licenses, disciplines (w/assist by Professional Practices Advisory Commission); no separate body for admin	all types and requirements are lumped together; poor organization
Vermont	Two types of licenses (levels I and II); separate endorsements required for admin	Standards Board for Professional Educators approves prep programs and licensure standards; Dept of Education issues licenses and disciplines	little information in rules, lots of cross references
Virginia	Tiered licenses based on teacher's degree (provisional, collegiate professional, and postgraduate professional); separate endorsements required for admin (levels I and II)	State Board of Education approves prep, sets licensure standards, issues licenses, and disciplines (Dept of Ed investigates and recs); no separate body for admin	all license types in one section of rules, not much info; endorsements all have own sections, however
Washington	Two types of licenses (residency and professional); separate admin certificates	Professional Educator Standards Board approves prep, sets licensure standards; Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction issues licenses, and disciplines (Admissions and Professional Conduct Advisory Committee investigates); no separate body for admin	good organization and info in rules; due to recent changes, also includes equivalencies and transition language

West Virginia	Tiered licenses (initial, professional, permanent professional); "advanced credentials" also available; separate tiers for admin licenses	Board of Education approves prep and licensure standards (w/assist from Commission for Professional Teaching Standards); Dept of Ed issues licenses and disciplines; no separate body for admin	all license types and requirements lumped into one section of rules; hard to navigate
Wisconsin	Tiered licenses (initial, professional, master) broken down by age level (early childhood, middle childhood, early adolescence, adolescence); separate licensure structure for admin	Dept of Public Instruction approves prep and licensure standards (w/assist from Professional Standards Council), issues licenses, disciplines; no separate body for admin	all licenses have own sections, good info (initial educator license has a subpart on "Advancement")
Wyoming	Single license type (educator license) plus additional endorsements required; no separate license for admin (included in definition of "educator"), but does require additional endorsement	Professional Teaching Standards Board approves prep, issues licenses, and disciplines (w/assist from Investigation Committee); no separate body for admin	very little info, poorly organized