

Emergency License FAQ

Updated Emergency License FAQ Based on Extension:

Q: I was employed under an emergency license in the 2020-21 school year, with the extension of the license to June 30, 2022, can I continue employment under the license in the 2021-22 school year?

A: Yes, since the new expiration date of the license is June 30, 2022, you can continue employment under the emergency license. In addition, if you hold multiple emergency licenses, you could gain employment under a different emergency license.

Q: I received an emergency license, but was not employed under it in the 2020-21 school year, can I obtain employment in the 2021-22 school year under the emergency license?

A: Yes, the extension of the emergency license applies to all emergency licenses, previous employment under the license is not a prerequisite to receiving an extension until June 30, 2022.

Q: Will I be able to apply for an emergency license after June 30, 2021?

A: Yes, the Department will continue to accept applications for an emergency license after June 30, 2021. Applications will be accepted up to 180 days following the end of the state of emergency or June 30, 2022, whichever is earlier.

Q: Do I have to do anything to extend my current emergency license(s)?

A: No. Your emergency license(s) will automatically be updated in ELAR with the new expiration date of June 30, 2022.

Q. Does employment under an emergency license count toward obtaining professional teacher status (PTS)?

A. An educator that is employed under an emergency license and obtains a temporary, initial, provisional, preliminary or professional educator's license in the same field as the emergency license by June 30, 2022 and continues to work for the same employer under the newly acquired license, the service under the emergency educator license for that employer shall be counted as service toward professional teacher status.

Previous Emergency License FAQ:

Q: Can I apply for more than one emergency teacher license?

A: Yes, you can apply for multiple emergency teacher licenses if you do not currently hold a Temporary, Provisional (Preliminary for Vocational), Initial, or Professional teacher license.

Q: What documentation will you need to verify that I have a bachelor's degree?

A: You will need to upload or submit an official transcript verifying possession of a bachelor's degree. Information about how to upload a document to your ELAR account and what is considered an official transcript can be found at: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/licensure/forms-guidelines.html>

Q: I was planning on getting a biology and chemistry license. Do I have to choose between those two when applying for an emergency license, or will I be able to obtain an emergency license in more than one field and grade level?

A: You may be able to earn both a biology and chemistry license, as long as the emergency license is your first license in that category (teacher, teacher specialist, professional support, or administrator).

Q: If I get this emergency license, will I be employable in a Massachusetts preK-12 public school?

A: Yes, you will be eligible for employment in the subject area of the emergency license. Getting this license does not mean you are assured a job in a Massachusetts school. The license would make you eligible for employment in the state but hiring and placement decisions are made by the local school and district leaders, who are best positioned to screen and hire applicants who will be best for their students.

Q: If I have an Initial, math, 5-8 teacher license, can I apply for an emergency principal license?

A: Yes, so long as you do not have an administrator license. You are eligible for a principal license as long as you are able to show evidence of the required experience.

Q: If I earn an emergency license in Massachusetts, can I be employed in another state?

A: This emergency license allows an individual to work in a Massachusetts public school. Each state has their own requirements for licensure and employment. You will need to check with the state where you are looking to be employed to determine eligibility.

Q: I am moving to Massachusetts. Can I get an emergency license?

A: Yes, assuming this would be your first license in Massachusetts, and you have satisfied the criteria for the emergency license.

Q: If I already have an Initial teacher license, can I add an emergency teacher license in another subject or grade span?

A: No, this emergency license is intended to ensure that the pipeline of educators in the system is not adversely impacted given the circumstances of COVID-19 and that individuals are not prevented from entering the profession. We recognize that individuals may be looking to add a license to expand their eligibility to be employed in other subjects, but this license is designed to allow people who were not already serving as a teacher, administrator, or professional support personnel to enter those professions. Districts may continue to seek a waiver for employment or assignment decisions for individuals with a license in one subject area but teaching out of field.

Q: Do I need a Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) Endorsement in order to obtain an emergency license?

A: No, an SEI Endorsement is not required.

Q: I was in the process of obtaining a Preliminary license as a vocational plumbing teacher, which requires a high school diploma or equivalent. I do not hold a bachelor's degree. Will I qualify for an emergency license?

A: Currently, all vocational teacher emergency licenses will require a bachelor's degree even if the requirements for a Preliminary license require only a high school diploma/GED or an associate's degree. The Department is looking into options to assist applicants for these licenses. Districts can employ these individuals under hardship waivers. In addition to currently needing a bachelor's degree, an applicant for a plumbing emergency license would also need to have a current and valid license as a Massachusetts Master Plumber.