

## 2021-2022 Alternative Certification Dates and Requirements

Kanawha County Schools BEST (Beginning Educator Support and Training)

Program information and required training dates are included below. Additional

Dates may be added pending Alternative Certification Program Requirements for

all teachers attempting to become certified teachers through the BEST Alternative

Certification Program, **which is in Three Phases**. Kanawha County Schools hires

and trains teacher applicants in the following approved content areas when

teaching positions are available and cannot be filled by a certified teacher:

Middle and High School Mathematics

Middle and High School Science

Middle and High School English Language Arts

Middle and High School World Languages

K-12 Music

K-12 Art

K-12 Special Education (Multi-Categorical and Autism)

Call the Human Resources Department (304-348-7712) or Office of Professional

Development (304-348-6105) with questions you may have, OR email

[egayton@mail.kana.k12.wv.us](mailto:egayton@mail.kana.k12.wv.us) or [rpauley@mail.kana.k12.wv.us](mailto:rpauley@mail.kana.k12.wv.us) .

Requirements for ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION PHASES I, II, and III

follow.

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**PHASE I** (Phase I must be completed in one to three school years. If not completed by the end of the third year, the teacher can no longer be employed by Kanawha County Schools through the Alternative Certification Program.) The teacher must reapply for the alternative certificate at the end of years 1 and 2 if the teacher has not completed all requirements in order to move to Phase II.

1. Complete Application Online: [https://kcs.kana.k12.wv.us/employment/alternative\\_certification\\_program/application](https://kcs.kana.k12.wv.us/employment/alternative_certification_program/application)
2. Official transcripts must be sent by the college or university to Kanawha County Schools Human Resources Department. An overall GPA of 2.5 is required.
3. Visit the following web site: <https://www.ets.org/praxis/wv/requirements/>
4. First, complete the Praxis \*CORE Exams as follows:

To become certified in:	<u>You need to take:</u>	Test Number/Code:	Qualifying Score
All approved content areas	<a href="#">Core Academic Skills for Educators: Reading</a>	5713	156
	And		
	<a href="#">Core Academic Skills for Educators: Writing</a>	5723	162
	And		
	<a href="#">Core Academic Skills for Educators: Mathematics (On-screen four function calculator provided.)</a>	5733	150
If you wish to take all three computer-delivered Core exams (5713, 5723, 5733) at the same time, select Core Academic Skills for Educators: Combined Test (5752) when registering. Scores will be reported by individual test (5713, 5723, 5733). *The CORE exam may be waived if you have an earned masters degree. Call for information.			

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5. Complete the Praxis Content Exam in your area of interest. See paragraph one at the top of this document for approved content areas. (All content area Praxis Content Exams have to be successfully completed before the applicant can be hired through the alternative certification program, **with the exception of Special Education Multi-categorical and Autism applicants** who will complete the Special Ed Content exam(s) near the end of Phase I.)

Praxis content exams required for WV are identified on the following web site:

**(Middle School applicants must complete TWO Content exams in qualifying content areas)**

<https://www.ets.org/praxis/wv/requirements/>

6. Once the applicant earns the qualifying scores on the CORE Exam and Content Exam, the applicant may apply for available teaching positions in his or her areas of interest.

7. Important: Near the end of completing Phase I, the teacher hired through alternative certification in all content areas must also complete the Praxis PLT Exam (Praxis Professional Learning and Teaching Exam).

7. Once hired, the teacher will complete all training and professional learning components that follow, which are part of **Phase I**.

8. The teacher must complete the two-year Beginning Teacher Program, along with all new teachers, to remain in the Alternative Certification Program.

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### Training and Professional Learning Components:

1. The teacher hired through the alternative certification program will attend the Beginning Teacher Academy, July 26-30, 2021. Details be will sent to the new teacher when hired. All new teachers, including those in the alternative certification program, will be compensated \$1000 for attending all five required days.
2. If a teacher is are hired after July 23, 2021, he or she will be required to attend a makeup session and series of sessions for all new teachers with substitute teacher coverage provided for classroom coverage throughout the year. If substitute teachers are not available, the sessions will be conducted during the later afternoon and early evening hours of 4-7 pm. All participants in the alternative teacher certification program will be required to attend the sessions.
3. **The first session is scheduled on September 9, 2021.** Additional (tentative) dates are identified later in this document. The teacher hired through alternative certification will begin a 20 day Teaching Practicum the first week of school or soon after being hired. First semester practicums must be completed by December 17, 2021, unless an extension is granted. This is the 20 day practicum required for all teachers attempting to earn alternative certification. The assigned Beginning Teacher Academic Coach (BTAC) will spend 2-3 hours per day in the alternative teacher classroom, observing and conferencing with the new teacher for 20 days.

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4. Weekly observations by the assigned BTAC in the alternative teacher's classroom and scheduled conferences with the assigned BTAC will be held at least once weekly following the practicum. (The BEST Support team will conduct observations, as well, and the building principal will conduct observations and provide all formal evaluations. )
5. You will audit two graduate classes the first year (no cost), one class per semester as follows: **Blended Learning** (first semester) and **Personalized Learning** (second semester). These are evening classes typically from 4-7 pm. 2021-2022 dates for the two classes will be announced soon.
6. There will be a minimum of \*six-to-eight professional development sessions throughout the year for new teachers in alternative certification and many will include all new teachers, as well those in the alternative certification program.

**September 9, 2021** - Alternative Certification only

**September 23, 2021** - All Beginning Teachers, including Alternative Certification

**October 7, 2021** - Alternative Certification only

**October 28, 2021** - All Beginning Teachers, including Alternative Certification

**December 2, 2021** - Alternative Certification only

**January 13, 2022** - Alternative Certification only

**February 10, 2022** - All Beginning Teachers, including Alternative

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### Certification

**March 24, 2022** - Alternative Certification only

\*Time and location to be announced.

7. You must have a minimum of a satisfactory evaluation by your building principal to remain in the alternative certification program.
8. Important: Near the end of completing Phase I, the teacher hired through alternative certification must complete the **PLT exam (Praxis Professional Learning and Teaching exam) in order to move to Phase II.**
9. Once the teacher has successfully completed all components of Phase I, in a scheduled meeting at the end of the specific school year, he or she will complete an application for a **One year, Temporary Provisional Teacher Certification.** He or she will do this **for two consecutive years.**

### **Phase II - This is a two year phase.**

1. **First Year in Phase II:** Teach on the One Year Temporary Provisional Certificate.
2. At the end of the first year teaching on the One Year Temporary Provisional Certificate, at a scheduled meeting, the teacher will apply for a **second year, One Year Temporary Provisional Certificate.**
3. During the two years teaching on the One Year Temporary Provisional Certificates, the teacher in Phase II must complete six college/graduate level

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hours with a transcript provided by the college or university offering the credit.

There are options available through a third party contract between Kanawha County Schools and Marshall University. These and other options will be explained to you at one of the scheduled sessions, and they are offered at a reduced cost. Any college or graduate level classes completed before the teacher is in **Phase II**, CANNOT BE USED.

4. The Phase II teacher will be observed by the Alternative Certification Support Team, BTAC, and Principal. The Principal will conduct the formal evaluation.
5. After completing Phase II, at a scheduled meeting the teacher will apply for a three year provisional certificate.

### **Phase III: The teacher hired through the alternative certification program**

will now be in Phase III, teaching on a **three-year provisional teaching certificate**, just as all new certified teachers do. During this time, the teacher will be required to complete six additional, approved graduate level or college level hours related to the area in which he or she teaches or instructional/classroom improvement. All certified teachers must do this while teaching on the three year provisional certificate, as well.

**The beginning of Phase III ends the alternative certification requirements. At that time the teacher is recognized as a fully certified teacher in the area he or she completed the alternative certification program. At this time, he or she will follow the same recertification path as all teachers in the state of WV. IN**

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**Phase III the teacher may successfully complete Praxis content exams to add additional endorsements to his or her certificate.**