

SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

Certified and Qualified Definitions

Applicants must be eligible for full teacher certification in order to secure employment as a teacher with the Polk County School District.

Conditions of employment are subject to change in accordance with federal, state, and district guidelines.

Certified (C)	All teachers must hold or be deemed eligible (by a Florida Statement of Status of Eligibility) to hold a valid Florida certificate for full-time teaching.
Qualified (Q)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers must hold certificates covering subject/s required by <i>Florida Course Code Directory</i> (FCCD) for their teaching assignments. • Teachers not appropriately certified according to the FCCD, must be approved by the Board to teach out-of-field and must comply with their Agreements to Earn, or ESOL Plans of Study. • Allowable out-of-field endorsement areas are <i>Educational Leadership, Gifted, ESOL, and Reading</i>.
K-12 Art	Teachers must hold certification in Art K-12.
K-12 Drama	Teachers must hold certification in Drama K-12.
K-12 Music	Teachers must hold certification in Music K-12.
K-6 or Pre K/Primary Education	Teachers must hold certification in the appropriate subject according to grade level assigned.
K-6 Foreign Language	Teachers must hold certification in the appropriate Foreign Language.
Secondary 6-12 (Except Reading)	Teachers must hold certification in the subject area/s taught.
Secondary 6-12 Reading	<p>Teachers must hold certification in either the Reading Endorsement or the Reading Subject Coverage.</p> <p>(Note: This is an allowable Out-of-Field (OOF) assignment, if certified in another core academic area. If an OOF assignment is accepted, the teacher must agree and adhere to the <i>Agreement to Earn</i> stipulations.)</p>
Middle Grades & Secondary Social Science	Teachers must hold certification in the appropriate subject according to the Florida Course Code Directory.
Exceptional Student Education (ESE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary Level- Teachers must hold certification in Exceptional Student Education (ESE) K-12 <u>and</u> certification in Elementary Education K-6. • Middle and Senior High Levels- Teachers must hold certification in Exceptional Student Education (ESE) <u>and</u> certification in secondary core academic subject(s) assigned. <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the teacher is not certified in the secondary core academic subject(s), he/she must pass at least <u>one</u> subject area exam and add the area to the certificate each year until all areas are added to the certificate. • If the teacher is assigned to fill an ESE Inclusion position, then he/she is <i>only</i> required to hold certification in the appropriate ESE coverage.

The School Board of Polk County, Florida prohibits any and all forms of discrimination and harassment based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, age, homelessness, or disability or other basis prohibited by law in any of its programs, activities, or employment. If you require any type of accommodation to complete the employment process due to a disability, please call the Human Resource Services Division at (863)-534-0781. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, please contact the Polk County School District by calling Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8771.