

**Teacher Certification Program FAQ**

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**How many teacher Certification programs does MTEC offer?**

MTEC offers 2 types of programs. The Initial Educator Certification Program (IECP) provides a pathway to Wisconsin teacher licensure for those with a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university but who don’t have a teaching license. The Contracted Teacher Program provides a pathway to Wisconsin teacher licensure for those licensed teachers who want to earn additional certification.

**In which areas does MTEC offer teacher certification?**

The certification areas are determined by the staffing needs of Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) because MTEC resident teachers complete the on the job portion of the program in Milwaukee Public Schools classrooms. The certification area needs change from year to year.

Depending upon the need within MPS MTEC could offer certification programs in the following areas:

Certification Area	Grades
Special Education	Pre K – 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 1 <sup>st</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> or 6 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>
Bilingual Special Education	Pre K – 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 1 <sup>st</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> or 6 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>
Math	6 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>
Science	6 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>
Bilingual (Spanish) Endorsement	PreK – 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Pre K – 6 <sup>th</sup> , 1 <sup>st</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>

**Why should I choose MTEC?**

- MTEC provides you with the support of a mentor who will meet with you weekly. Mentors are experienced teachers trained to provide you with support and encouragement.
- MTEC provides supported “on the job” learning that accelerates your mastery of the fundamentals and principles of teaching.
- You earn a starting teacher salary and receive fringe benefits during your on the job training placement.
- MTEC is an accelerated program that provides you with certification in less time than a college or university program alone.
- You should choose MTEC if you have a commitment to and can connect with Milwaukee's children.

**Will I get paid while I'm in the program?**

Yes. While participating in the MTEC program as an intern teacher, you will receive a first year MPS teacher’s salary plus fringe benefits. You must be assigned to an MPS classroom to qualify for a salary.

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### When will the program start?

Normally certification students participate in an induction program during the summer before placement. The induction program includes on the job practice teaching and induction coursework designed to provide students with a solid background in the fundamentals of teaching.

### Please describe the Teacher Certification Programs?

There are 5 stages that lead to Wisconsin teacher certification through the MTEC program:

- Inquiry
- Application and Admission Process
- Induction (Initial Certification only)
- On the job internship
- Certification

**Inquiry** – This is primarily a fact finding time for those who are interested in the MTEC program. MTEC requires that those who are interested in the program attend an Information Session to learn more about the program. Participants will receive printed information about the program as well as application materials.

**Application and Admission Process** – This stage is demanding because it requires a lot of work in several different areas including: completion of an application, forwarding of official college transcripts, documentation of experience with urban youth, letters of recommendation, report on classroom observations, successful completion of the Praxis I assessment (reading, math and writing), registration for the Praxis II (not required prior to admission but is required prior to certification) and an interview.

**Induction** – Induction is only required for those seeking their first Wisconsin Teaching License. The induction program includes coursework that focuses on the fundamental principles and techniques of teaching. In addition, students will “practice teach” several lessons in a Milwaukee Public Schools classroom. Normally the induction program is completed in the summer (or semester) before assignment to the classroom.

**On the Job Internship** – MTEC interns are assigned to Milwaukee Public Schools classrooms where they will remain until the end of their internship program. As an intern, each student is responsible for organizing and managing the classroom and is expected to fulfill the duties expected of a Milwaukee Public Schools teacher. The intern receives support from Milwaukee Public Schools, the school and MTEC during the internship. MTEC provides a mentor who will observe and meet with the intern weekly to provide encouragement and support. In addition MTEC will perform several formal assessments during the internship period. In addition to teaching full time all interns must attend weekly seminars where they will be expected to complete tasks associated with their teaching internship.

**Certification** – Upon successful completion of the internship, submission of the portfolio, attainment of a passing score on the Praxis II assessment, full payment of tuition and payment of the license fee, MTEC will endorse the intern’s application for a Wisconsin Teaching License.

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### **Is financial aid available?**

MTEC teachers are eligible for financial aid through the college or university providing the certification coursework. Your personal situation, the aid source and college or university rules determine your eligibility for financial aid.

Through the MTEC AmeriCorps program, interns can earn an education award based upon completion of a service learning project. Interns can participate in the AmeriCorps program for up to two years and earn an award in each of those years. The award earned through AmeriCorps can be applied to existing federal education loans or toward tuition in a university program.

MTEC encourages interns to explore other grant sources including those available through the State of Wisconsin.