

CERTIFICATION

Effective August 28, 2003, the previous three-level system of certification will be replaced with a two-level system. The categories of PC1, PC2, and CPC are being replaced with the **Initial** Professional Certificate and the **Career** Continuous Professional Certificate.

- The **Initial** certificate is a four-year certificate issued to new graduates or individuals with fewer than four years of teaching experience. It requires:
 - Completion of a background check issued by the Highway Patrol & FBI (approximately \$55)
 - Participation in two years of a district-provided mentoring program
 - Participation in a beginning teacher assistance program (the hours of which do NOT count as professional development)
 - Completion of 30-contact hours, during the four-year initial certification, of professional development (may include college credit)
 - Successful completion of yearly PBTE
 - There is no fee for the initial certification.

- The **Career** certificate replaces the CPC level. It is a continuous certificate based on:
 - Paying a \$35 application fee
 - Yearly completion of 15-contact hours of professional development (may include college credit)
 - Successful completion of yearly PBTE;OR
 - An individual can become exempt from the annual 15-contact hours requirement by obtaining two of the following:
 - Ten years of teaching experience
 - A master's degree
 - Rigorous national certification

For example: An individual with three years of experience and a PC1 certificate that expires on September 15, 2003, would apply for an extension of the PC1 for one year (in order to meet the four-year experience requirement). On September 15, 2004, this teacher would pay the \$35 fee to upgrade to a Career certificate.

Another example: An individual with nine years of experience and a PC2 that expires on September 30, 2003, would apply for an upgrade to the Career certificate and pay the \$35 fee to upgrade to the new Career level/certificate.

To get certification applications go to the following website and download them.

<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divteachqual/teachcert> from there choose certifications and forms.

You may also call Educator Certification at 573-751-0051.