

FSM TEACHER CERTIFICATION POLICY (As Amended, 2012)

I. Purpose

The FSM Teacher Certification Policy, hereinafter refers as "Policy", is hereby established to provide minimum standards for teacher certification based on applicable performance competencies and educational backgrounds.

II. Statutory Requirements

This Policy is established pursuant to Title 40, FSMC §114 and in accordance with the administrative procedural requirements contained in Title 17 FSMC §102 - § 104.

III. Definitions

These definitions shall apply to terms and concepts used in this policy only.

1. *"Director"* shall mean the applicable head of the Department of Education of the states of Chuuk, Pohnpei, Yap and Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia.

2. *"Secretary"* shall mean the head of the Department of Education, FSM National Government.

3. *"Early Childhood Education "* shall mean any public or non-public school that provide standardized instructional and relevant services to children ages 3 to 5;

4. *"Primary school"* shall mean any public or non-public school that provides standardized instructional and relevant services to children ages 6 to 13 or older, but not more than 15.

5. *"Secondary school"* shall mean any public or non-public school that provides standardized instruction and relevant services to adolescent youth ages 13 to 16 or older, but not more than 19.

6. *"Teacher"* shall mean any duly certified person whose formal duties and responsibilities are to impart knowledge and skills to Students in the schools from preschool to secondary school.

7. *"Associate of Arts"* degree shall equivalent to a 60 semester credits earned at an accredited institution of higher education, hereinafter refers as "IHE".

8. *"Associate of Science"* degree shall equivalent to a 60 semester credits earned at an accredited institution of higher education, IHE.

9. "FSM School System" shall include any public or non-public institution that impart knowledge and skills to students at the preschool, primary and secondary school levels in Chuuk, Pohnpei, Yap and Kosrae.

10. "Accredited Institution of Higher Education" shall mean any institution of higher education that is accredited by internationally recognized accrediting agencies or commissions.

11. "National Standardized Tests for Teachers" (NSTT) shall mean a duly developed test for testing the content base competency skills and performance base competency skills of teachers or would be teachers in the FSM.

IV. Teacher Certification Requirements

A person shall be issued certification to teach in the FSM School System pursuant to the provisions herein set forth by this section and subsequent sections thereof, and which shall bear the signature of the Secretary and the insignia of the national government. Said certificate shall be issued in manners as shall be prescribed by the Secretary. FSM Teacher Certificate shall be issued to those who met the educational background criteria and passed the National Standardized Tests for Teachers (NSTT). The following criteria shall establish the qualifications and eligibility requirements under this policy for which any person or group of persons applying for teaching positions or is currently teaching must meet prior to being issued certificates:

Any person applying for a teaching position or is currently teaching in any FSM School System must possess the following proofs of qualifications:

1. Educational Backgrounds

- a. An Associate of Arts (AA) degree or an Associate of Science (AS) degree or above will be qualified to teach in any FSM Schools.
- b. Holder of degrees from non-US, accredited institutions shall submit copies of their degrees and transcripts to be reviewed and approved by the National Department of Education or its designated firm or individual.

2. National Standardized Test for Teachers (NSTT)

There shall be a National Standardized Test for Teachers which shall be scheduled and administered by the States' Department of Education's certified assessment specialists. The scoring, analysis and reporting shall be performed within ten (10) days after receipt of tests by the National Department of Education. Any person applying for a teaching position or who is currently teaching shall be required to pass the NSTT or its succeeding version to be qualified under this section. The NSTT shall be comprised of two sections:

a. Content Competency Component.

The content competency component of the test shall measure the skill levels of new and current teachers in content areas such as language arts, math and science.

b. Teaching Competency Component.

The teaching competency component of the test shall measure the skill levels of teachers in practical applications of teaching methods at ECE-12 levels. This component shall consist of written examination which shall be made up of multiple choice type questions.

3. *Certificate Eligibilities*

Any new or current teacher who shall possess an associate and/or bachelor degree from any U.S. institution of higher education or its equivalent and also pass the NSTT shall be eligible to teach in any public or non-public schools of the FSM and shall be eligible for appropriate certifications under this policy:

4. *Class and Types of Certifications*

Teacher certification in the Federated States of Micronesia shall be of four (4) types

a. Provisional Certificates

Provisional Certificates shall be issued only to teachers hired on contract, or short term basis or volunteers teaching in any FSM schools or applying to teach in the FSM that possess AA/AS degrees or above, or their equivalents with transcripts from their last attended IHE (Institution of Higher Education). Such certificates shall be renewable upon respective state Director's request only.

b. Special Certificates

Special Certificates shall be issued to all degree and non-degree career teachers and/or cultural teachers who meet each respective state department's adopted requirements. Such certificates shall be renewable after four (4) years upon respective state Director's request only.

c. Basic Certificates

Basic certificates shall be issued to teachers possessing AA/AS degree and passed the NSTT; Content Competency Component and Teaching Competency Component. Such certificates shall be renewable after three (3) years upon respective state Director's request.

d. Advance Certificates

Advance Certificates shall be issued to teachers possessing BA/BS degree or above and passed the NSTT; Content Competency Component and Teaching Competency Component.

e. Optional

Any teachers who have met the Basic Certification requirements (possessed an AA/AS degree and passed content competency tests) may be given the option to work toward a BA/BS degree or above for advancement from Basic Certificate to Advance Certificate eligibility.

5. *Issuance of Certifications*

The Offices of the Directors of Education for each State shall ensure that teachers fall within the provisions of this policy are qualified accordingly and submit the list of these qualified teachers to the National Department of Education. The Office of the Secretary is responsible for the issuance of applicable certificates within ten (10) days, from the date the request was received. All certificates shall be issued upon respective State Director's request only.

V. Restrictions and Penalties

All certificates issued shall bear the original signatures of the Secretary. Any person found in possession of forged certificates for the purposes of deceit, malice and/or false duplication shall be guilty of an offense and shall be liable to a fine of up to USD \$1,000 or imprisoned for no less than thirty (30) days or both. Such person shall be terminated from teaching in any schools in the FSM.

VI. Issuance of Certificate Duplicates

Any holder of valid certificate who shall lose his/her certificate due to natural causes or misplacement may request for duplicate through the Office of the Principal who shall file a request to the Office of the Director. Procedure for requesting duplicates shall be in accordance with part (IV)(5) of this policy. A nominal service fee of \$20 (USD) shall be imposed and applied only to requests for duplicates and shall be payable to the FSM Treasury prior to the submission of such request to the Office of the Secretary.

VII. Validation of Certificates

The Secretary of Education or a duly designated official on his/her behalf shall validate all certificates by affixing their signatures on the said documents with the official insignia of the

department. The Department shall be responsible for safe-keeping and securing of copies of all valid certificates issued by the department.

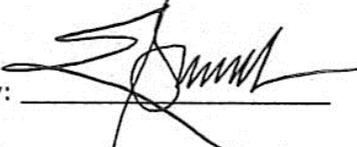
VIII. Adoption

This FSM Teacher Certification Policy shall be deemed approved and amended and shall become effective on the date the Secretary shall affix his/her signature unto this policy. All provisions herein shall supersede other prior provisions pertained to teacher certification in the Federated States of Micronesia.

Adopted this 12th day of April 2012



Rufino Mauricio, Ph.D.
Secretary
Department of Education, FSM

Attested to by: 

Date: 04-12-12