

State and Territorial Teacher Certification Benefits

Some states and territories allow people interested in obtaining a teaching certification to use Peace Corps service to meet some of the certification requirements. This resource shows which states offer this option.

- Teacher certification in nearly all 50 states and territories can be pursued along two primary routes: certification programs and alternative certification methods.
- Certification programs for each state require aspiring teachers to fulfill mandatory requirements at an acceptable teacher preparation program, usually hosted by an accredited college or university within that state. Acceptance of Peace Corps teaching service by a specific teacher preparation program remains at the discretion of that college or university.
- Some states also offer alternative certification routes toward licensure, which frequently involve preparing a teacher portfolio.
- This information was accurate as of August 1st, 2019, but these regulations do change frequently. Please use the contact information provided to confirm.

State	Teacher Certification Benefits	Contact Information
Alabama	Teaching experience is not required for a provisional teaching certification in Alabama. For a true teaching certificate, people must complete education specific coursework or must hold a teaching certificate in another state.	Alabama State Department of Education (334) 694-4557
Alaska	Alaska does not require teaching experience in order to get a teaching certificate.	Alaska Department of Education Teacher Certification (907) 465-2831
American Samoa	Peace Corps experience may be applied by a school towards the necessary credits to earn a teaching license, but it varies by program.	American Samoa Department of Education (684) 699-9117
Arizona	Peace Corps teaching experience may be submitted in lieu of student teaching as "two years of full-time teaching," which should be confirmed in an official letter from the Peace Corps equivalent of a district supervisor. (Probably a Country Director). Letter should include a description of the length, grade level, and subject area of the Volunteer's placement.	Arizona Department of Education (602) 542-4361
Arkansas	Peace Corps service could possibly be applied towards the Provisional Professional Teaching License. The Provisional Professional Teaching License is a three-year, provisional Educator license issued to an experienced professional for the purpose of teaching on a part-time or full-time basis as teacher-of-record in an Arkansas public school for middle childhood grades (4-8) Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies or secondary grades (7-12) content areas.	Arkansas Department of Education (501) 682-4342 Provisional Professional Teaching License

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California	Peace Corps experience may be submitted in lieu of the teacher preparation program requirement with certification by the agency that 50 percent or more of the service consisted of classroom teaching of resident children of the foreign country.	California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (888) 921-2682
Colorado	Alternative teaching licenses (for those without a B.A. in Education), are granted through coursework at various institutions. Those institutions decide whether Peace Corps service can be used to meet their requirements.	Colorado Department of Education, Educator Talent - Licensing Office (303) 866-6628
Connecticut	Teaching experience can be submitted with other requirements in the application. The 2 year teaching experience (within Peace Corps) would have to be subject and grade appropriate, and could be used to waive a college's student teaching requirement. Form #126 "Statement of Successful Professional Experience" would have to "be signed by someone in the Peace Corps" (copy of the form in file). School taught at during Peace Corps must be accredited schools in country of service and volunteer must have been a teacher of record at that school.	Connecticut Department of Education, Bureau of Educator Certification (860) 713-6969 Statement of Successful Professional Experience Form
Delaware	Teachers must have completed relevant coursework at a university. Some universities will count Peace Corps service towards the coursework completion requirements.	Delaware Department of Education Certification Office (302) 735-4023
District of Columbia	Peace Corps service is not creditable for teacher licensure. DC Public School has the Language Educator Pathway Program which allows selected RPCVs to work in a DC school for two years, after which, if they earned high marks on performance evaluations, they will be eligible for a teaching license.	District of Columbia Public Schools (202) 442-5885 Language Educator Pathway Program
Florida	Peace Corps teaching experience does not apply to a Florida initial teaching certification, although it may be submitted during professional licensure if Peace Corps service took place after prior certification.	Florida Department of Education (800) 445-6739
Georgia	Peace Corps teaching experience does not apply to traditional certification; however, the state provides alternative certification routes for individuals with a Bachelor's degrees and specific expertise/experience in certain fields, including foreign language.	Georgia Professional Standards Certification (800) 869-7775 Alternative Certification Routes
Guam	Unknown, they did not respond to multiple attempts to contact them.	Guam Commission for Educator Certification (671) 735-2554
Hawaii	Peace Corps teaching experience can count toward certification if it is approved by a Hawaiian university overseeing the preparation program or if the RPCV previously held a license in a different state.	Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (808) 586-2600 Preparation Programs
Idaho	Idaho requires the completion of a teaching program before granting a license. Individual programs may accept Peace Corps service towards their requirements.	Idaho State Department of Education (208) 332-6882
Illinois	Teaching experience while in Peace Corps cannot be applied toward teacher licensing.	Illinois State Board of Education (217) 557-6763.

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Indiana	Peace Corps teaching experience can be applied towards Indiana licensing if the RPCV already has an out-of-state license.	Indiana Professional Standards Board (317) 232-9007
Iowa	Teaching experience while in Peace Corps cannot be applied toward teacher licensing.	Iowa Teaching Licensure (515) 281-3605
Kansas	Teaching experience while in Peace Corps cannot be applied toward teacher licensing.	Kansas State Department of Education (785) 296-2288
Kentucky	Peace Corps service cannot be credited towards licensure, but may count towards experience credit leading to a pay increase at the district level. It is possible that the college granting certification may waive internship or experience requirements for an RPCV at the college's discretion.	Education Professional Standards Board (502) 564-5846
Louisiana	Peace Corps teaching experience cannot be applied toward traditional teacher certification. If an RPCV wishes to pursue an alternate route to certification, credit for Peace Corps teaching will be based on the policies of the specific college/university overseeing the certification program.	Louisiana Department of Education (877) 453-2721
Maine	Peace Corps teaching experience cannot be applied toward traditional teacher certification. The student teaching requirements must be fulfilled in the state of Maine.	Maine State Department of Education (207) 624-6603
Maryland	Peace Corps teaching experience may be applied towards Maryland teacher certification if RPCV is previously certified from another state. In Maryland, Peace Corps service is considered equivalent to any other out of state teaching experience. If RPCV has not been previously certified, then Peace Corps teaching experience will not count for reciprocity.	Maryland Department of Education (410) 767-0412 Out of State Certificate Holder and Educator Preparation Program Completer
Massachusetts	In Massachusetts, obtaining a full teaching certificate requires completion of university coursework, and individual universities will determine whether Peace Corps service counts for their requirements. A provisional license is available which does not require teaching experience.	Massachusetts Department of Education (781) 338-6600
Michigan	Teacher licensure requires completion of Michigan teacher preparation program at a particular college or university. Credit for RPCV would depend on the decision of that particular college/university, which may accept experience in lieu of student teaching, but on a case- by-case basis.	Michigan Department of Education, Professional Educator Certification and Services Unit (517) 241-5000
Minnesota	Peace Corps experience may be used to meet requirements depending on the Tier of the license being applied for and the details of the volunteer's service.	Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (651) 539-4200
Mississippi	Mississippi teacher certification does not credit Peace Corps service, but it may be possible to negotiate some credit in an alternative route program through a specific college/university.	Mississippi Department of Education (601) 359-3483

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Missouri	Peace Corps teaching experience is not creditable toward licensure in Missouri.	Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (573) 751-4212
Montana	Peace Corps teaching experience is not creditable toward licensure in Montana.	Montana Office of Public Instruction (406) 444-3095 Field Placement and Licensure (406) 994-4761
Nebraska	Peace Corps teaching service is not creditable as the Department of Education accepts only teacher experience in the Department of Defense (DOD) or in an American approved school.	Nebraska Department of Education Teacher Certification (402) 471-2295
Nevada	Experience credit for Peace Corps service would be up to the discretion of the college/university overseeing education credits or the teacher certification program.	Nevada Department of Education (775) 687-9115
New Hampshire	If Peace Corps teaching service demonstrates and documents at least 3 months of “full time teaching” with an employer reference, then an RPCV can utilize “Alternative 3” of the NH Department of Education certification system. Through this alternative, the RPCV creates a portfolio to take before an oral review board. The RPCV’s experience must be comparable to the subjects/ages that they wish to teach in New Hampshire.	New Hampshire Department of Education (603) 271-3494
New Jersey	Peace Corps teaching service is creditable toward experience credit for permanent licensure, but only if the RPCV already holds a New Jersey teaching license.	New Jersey Department of Education Licensing Unit (609) 376-3500
New Mexico	If an RPCV enters a program in New Mexico to complete the required teaching coursework, that program may accept Peace Corps service as credit towards a requirement.	New Mexico Department of Education (505) 827-1436
New York State	Peace Corps service is creditable to licensure under the Individual Evaluation Program with submittal of an abstract detailing where the RPCV was teaching, what subject he or she was teaching, etc., to be evaluated by the Office of Teaching Initiatives. A university may also waive its student teaching component for RPCVs.	New York State Education Department (518) 474-3901
North Carolina	Peace Corps service is creditable to licensure as long as the Volunteer was in fact positioned as a teacher, working at least 20 hours a week, and properly documented. This would be filed on “Form E” for verification of K-12 teaching experience.	North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (919) 807-3310
North Dakota	Peace Corps service could be creditable towards certification of an interim emergency licensure for teacher shortage if the RPCV has a baccalaureate degree in her prospective teaching subject area, and if he or she could both prove completion of clinical practice under mentorship and complete education coursework at an approved university.	North Dakota Education Standards And Practices Board (ESPB) (701) 328-9641

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Northern Mariana Islands	Unknown, they did not respond to attempts to contact them.	The CNMI website is under construction. No contact information is available.
Ohio	Peace Corps service would generally not count, but could be considered through the credential review board (similar to a portfolio), and credited towards teaching requirements. The accredited college at which the RPCV hopes to fulfill the standard preparation program could potentially recognize the RPCV teaching hours.	Ohio Department of Education (614) 466-3593
Oklahoma	Peace Corps volunteer service is credible along the alternative certification program. An RPCV who has never completed a teacher education program but has at least a baccalaureate degree and a major in a field of study that corresponds to one of the specified certificate areas may apply for the Alternative Placement Program. Peace Corps teaching instruction can thus fulfill the required 2 years of work experience in the subject area of specialization. RPCV must then pass Oklahoma testing requirements and a review panel.	Oklahoma State Department of Education (405) 521-3337 Guidelines and Eligibility for the Alternative Placement Program
Oregon	Peace Corps teaching experience can only be used towards renewal purposes. While crediting Peace Corps service towards initial licensure remains at the accredited college's discretion, an applicant for renewal of a Basic Teaching License with a special education endorsement or with a subject matter endorsement valid for use in grades five through twelve or in pre-primary through grade twelve, or an applicant for renewal of an Initial Teaching License, may submit verification of 12 months of Peace Corps service during the life of the current license.	Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (503) 378-3586
Pennsylvania	Experience credit for Peace Corps service would be up to the discretion of the college/university overseeing education credits or the teacher certification program.	Pennsylvania Department of Education (717) 783-6788
Puerto Rico	Peace Corps teaching service is not creditable toward licensure in Puerto Rico.	Departamento de Educación (787) 759-2000
Rhode Island	Peace Corps service is honored provided that the grade level of the RPCV's instruction corresponds appropriately to the certification desired. Peace Corps teaching service thus waives the "student teaching requirements," as the RIDE accepts 2 years of teaching service with an official statement of service.	Rhode Island Department of Education (401) 222-8893
South Carolina	Under the Program of Alternative Certification for Educators (PACE), a RPCV can submit Peace Corps teaching service for the program requirement of two years prior full-time work experience.	South Carolina Department of Education (803) 895-0325
South Dakota	Peace Corps service is not creditable through either college preparation programs or the alternative certification route to licensure.	South Dakota Department of Education (605) 773-3134

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Tennessee	The Tennessee teacher license preparation program requires completion of student teaching requirements through an accredited college/university. This college/university might make allowances for Peace Corps full time teaching service based on the subject area and grade level taught.	Tennessee Department of Education, Office of Teacher Licensure (615) 532-4885
Texas	Experience credit for Peace Corps service would be up to the discretion of the college/university overseeing education credits or the teacher certification program.	Texas State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) (512) 936-8400
U.S. Virgin Islands	Peace Corps teaching experience is not creditable towards licensure.	Virgin Islands Board of Education (340) 772-4144
Utah	Peace Corps teaching service is not creditable towards licensure.	Utah State Board of Education (801) 538-7500
Vermont	An RPCV pursuing Vermont's alternative licensure route by "Peer Review" might be able to utilize Peace Corps teaching service to fulfill coursework and experience requirements. Peace Corps service is also creditable towards license renewal. License renewal requires completed credits, and Peace Corps service can satisfy up to 2/3 of these credits within a 7-year time period.	Vermont Department of Education (802) 479-1030 Renewing your License
Virginia	Peace Corps service could be submitted under the Alternative Licensure Program to fulfill part of the 5 year professional experience requirement.	Virginia Department of Education (800) 292-3820
Washington	Peace Corps does not qualify as student teaching experience in the teacher preparation program; however, it is possible that the supervising university could waive part of this requirement for Peace Corps service.	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (360) 725-6000
West Virginia	Peace Corps service is not creditable toward licensure, but it is possible that PC teaching experience may be considered for credit by the approved institutions for the Alternative Licensure Program.	West Virginia Department of Education (304) 558-2681
Wisconsin	Peace Corps service is not creditable as licensure mandates strict completion of state-approved educator preparation program.	Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (800) 441-4563
Wyoming	Peace Corps teaching experience may be accepted by the accredited college of a teacher preparation program.	Wyoming Professional Teachers' Standards Board (307) 777-7291