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State Superintendent of Schools

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TO: Educators who hold a Maryland Educator Certificate with an Expiration Date of July 1, 2020 or January 1, 2021

FROM: Kelly Meadows, Acting Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Educator Certification and Program Approval *KEM*

DATE: March 25, 2021

SUBJECT: Governor's Executive Order: Licenses and Permits

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On March 5, 2020, Governor Hogan declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and subsequently issued an Executive Order regarding Maryland licenses, permits, and registrations. This Order extends certain licenses and permits, including the Maryland Educator Certificate, which expire and must be renewed during the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency. On March 9, 2021, the Governor amended and restated the Order (enclosed), to include the following:

- The Order applies to all licenses permits, registrations, and other authorizations issued by the State of Maryland (collectively, "Covered Authorizations"), any agency of the State of Maryland, or any political subdivision of the State of Maryland that would otherwise expire and be renewable **prior to June 30, 2021**, during the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency.
- The expiration date of each Covered Authorization is hereby extended to **June 30, 2021**.

Effectively, any Maryland Educator Certificate that expired on July 1, 2020, or January 1, 2021, will be extended until June 30, 2021, at which time it will expire if the educator has not completed the necessary renewal requirements. However, please be reminded that Code of Maryland Regulation 13A.12.01.11A(2) allows an educator to submit the documentation required for renewal for up to 90 days past the expiration date of the certificate as long as the educator has completed the renewal requirements (e.g., coursework, assessments) prior to the expiration date. If the renewal documentation is submitted within 90 days of expiration, the certificate is considered continuous. Therefore, because of the extension allowed under the Executive Order, an educator whose Maryland Educator Certificate was extended will have until September 28, 2021, to submit their renewal documentation if the requirements were completed by June 30, 2021. If the educator has not completed their renewal requirements prior to June 30, 2021, they will not be able to apply for a renewal but must instead apply for a reinstatement once the requirements are completed. For information regarding renewal and reinstatement requirements, please visit [www.mdcert.org](http://www.mdcert.org).

If you are employed with a Maryland local school system, a nonpublic special education program, or a State-operated school, please work directly with your employer to determine when your materials must be submitted to maintain employment.

The MSDE understands that COVID-19 may impact an educator's ability to complete the coursework required to fulfill certification requirements. While this fluid situation necessitates an adaptive approach to supporting

Maryland educators, we are committed to ensuring the high quality preparation of all educators. The following information is provided as a resource.

### **Coursework**

The MSDE has verified that both Maryland's four-year colleges and universities and two-year community colleges have moved to an online or hybrid format for courses, which will allow educators to continue taking the coursework necessary for renewal. Please be reminded that the MSDE will accept coursework from out-of-state, to include online colleges and universities, as long as that college/university holds regional accreditation. Additionally, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credit options may be available. For a list of CPD vendors, please visit the [MSDE Blackboard website](#).

Maryland approved If you are employed with a Maryland local school system, please work with your employer to determine if there are Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credit options available to you.

### **Testing**

On May 15, 2020, Educational Testing Service (ETS) launched the Praxis @ Home series. This series, consisting of over 80 of their most common Praxis assessments, is available for individuals who have the appropriate technology to test in their homes. Additionally, there are several Prometric sites open for testing in Maryland, a list of which can be found on the [Prometric website](#). Other test centers that are not managed by Prometric are determining their availability on a case-by-case basis based on state specific situations. Individuals may check on specific state availability by searching the [ETS closures webpage](#).

**Educators who have already renewed their Maryland Educator Certificate may disregard this communication. Those certificates are valid and will remain so until the date of expiration on the certificate.**

If you are employed with a local school system, state-operated school, or nonpublic special education facility in Maryland, please direct any questions you may have regarding this memorandum directly to your employer. If you are not currently employed in Maryland, or are employed in a private school in Maryland, you may direct your questions to [certinfo.msde@maryland.gov](mailto:certinfo.msde@maryland.gov).

Enclosures: Order of the Governor of the State of Maryland No.21-03-09-03  
COMAR 13A.12.01.11, Renewal of Certificates