



# Memo

Date: August 16, 2023  
To: Stakeholders  
From: Linda Lacroix, OCT, Registrar and CEO  
Subject: **New Transitional Certificate of Qualification and Registration**

The Teachers' Qualifications Regulation has been amended to enable the Ontario College of Teachers (the "College") to issue a new Transitional Certificate of Qualification and Registration (the "transitional certificate") for candidates in consecutive and concurrent programs that is distinguishable from the current transitional certificate. Applications for the new transitional certificate will open on August 30, 2023.

The new transitional certificate was created following a request by the Ministry of Education to assist in addressing systemic teacher shortages in the province by enabling teacher candidates to gain employment as certified teachers while completing their initial teacher education program. Only teacher candidates enrolled in an accredited Ontario teacher education program may be considered eligible.

The launch of the new transitional certificate will result in a name change for the current transitional certificate. Hereafter, it will be referred to as the "Multi-Session Transitional Certificate of Qualification and Registration." That name will appear on the public register for members who are certified after August 30, 2023. The status of College members who currently hold a transitional certificate that was granted prior to August 30, 2023 will not change. Their certificate will remain valid until its expiration date, as long as they maintain their membership in good standing.

## About the Certificate

The new transitional certificate will have the same appearance as other College certificates with the certificate information and membership status appearing on the public register at [oct.ca/findateacher](https://oct.ca/findateacher).

Holders of both the Transitional Certificate of Qualification and Registration and the Multi-Session Transitional Certificate of Qualification and Registration are subject to the same rights and responsibilities as holders of the general Certificate of Qualification and Registration, including the College's complaints, investigations, and discipline processes. As such, employers are required to comply with their reporting obligations under the *Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996* in respect to employees who hold a transitional certificate.

A teacher candidate will be able to apply for a transitional certificate once they have successfully completed a minimum of 30 postsecondary credits or their equivalent in their

program of professional education, consisting of a combination of methodology and foundation courses, and a minimum of 40 practicum days.

The transitional certificate is valid for 18 months, and all program requirements must still be met to obtain a general certificate. The certificate can be extended by six months. The multi-session transitional certificate will remain unchanged, valid for a period of six years and may be extended by one year. Either extension option is one-time only and requires membership in good standing.

### **Reporting Teacher Candidates for the Transitional Certificate**

Faculties will be provided with codes for reporting through [FacultyPlus](#) announcements.

Deans may report eligible teacher candidates to the College if they:

- have successfully completed a minimum of 30 postsecondary credits, or their equivalent, in their program of professional education consisting of a combination of methodology and foundation courses, and
- have successfully completed a minimum of 40 days of their practicum.

Up to 20 teaching days on the transitional certificate can be counted towards satisfying practicum requirements in the candidate's teacher education program. Faculties and school boards share responsibility in the monitoring and tracking of practicum days to fulfill program requirements.

Deans and faculties of education will still be expected to report program completion and a recommendation for a general certificate to the College following normal timelines and established practices. Deans should be explicit in reinforcing their program requirements to teacher candidates who hold a transitional certificate, and adhere to the design, timing, format, and structure of the program as originally accredited. Successful program completion that leads to conversion for a general certificate remains the priority for teacher candidates.

Candidates reported for a transitional certificate are not obliged to obtain that certificate. Additionally, the College is unable to issue a transitional certificate to candidates who have not been reported to the College by their Dean.

### **Additional Qualification (AQ) Eligibility**

College members who already hold, or apply to hold, either transitional certificate are ineligible to be awarded AQs until they have successfully completed their teacher education program. For an AQ to be awarded, all program requirements must be successfully completed and reported to the College.

Although members who hold a temporary certificate or either transitional certificate cannot be awarded AQs until they have received a general certificate, they can accrue successful teaching experience required as prerequisites for AQs (e.g., Schedule D, part 2).

### **Temporary Certificate Program Ends This Year**

The temporary certificate program will end on December 31, 2023. Teacher candidates who would otherwise apply for a temporary certificate should instead apply for a transitional certificate after applications open on August 30, 2023. Current holders of temporary

certificates, or those with expired temporary certificates, are not eligible to apply for a transitional certificate.

### **Additional Information**

The College will make teacher candidates aware of the new transitional certificate through the *Your College and You* newsletter, general news, web postings and updates, and other materials.

Along with this memo we've provided you with a document titled *Key Transitional Certificate Information for Teacher Candidates*. It includes essential details, and you are encouraged to share it with teacher candidates.

Additional information is also available in our [online FAQs](#), which will be updated as necessary.

I hope that this information provides you and your colleagues with guidance on this new initiative. If you have questions regarding program accreditation, please do not hesitate to contact the College's Director of Standards of Practice and Accreditation, Anna-Marie Nielsen, OCT, at [anielsen@oct.ca](mailto:anielsen@oct.ca).

If you have questions regarding certification, please contact the College's Director of Membership Services, Demetra Saldaris, OCT, at [dsaldaris@oct.ca](mailto:dsaldaris@oct.ca).

Both can also be reached by phone at (437) 880.3000, or toll-free in Canada and the U.S.A. at 1.833.699.5588.

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