# Teacher Certification Navigation

This playbook outlines the steps for prospective and current teachers on how to obtain certification and pursue ongoing professional development. It provides a structured guide to navigate the resources and processes involved.

### Step 1: Research Requirements

Investigate the certification requirements for the state or region where you want to teach. Requirements can vary widely, including necessary degrees, tests, background checks, and application procedures.

### Step 2: Educational Path

Enroll in an accredited teacher education program that aligns with your certification goals. Be sure to consider specializations that match your career ambitions.

### Step 3: Testing

Complete any mandated certification tests which may include subject matter tests, general teaching competency tests, and performance assessments.

### Step 4: Apply for Certification

Compile your educational transcripts, test scores, and any other required documents. Submit these with the appropriate forms to the certification authority in your state or region.

### Step 5: Fingerprinting

Go through the necessary background check process, which usually includes fingerprinting, to ensure you meet the safety requirements to work in educational settings.

### Step 6: Professional Development

Once certified, engage in continuous professional development. Explore options such as workshops, additional certifications, advanced degrees, and professional learning communities.

### Step 7: Maintain Certification

Stay aware of the renewal requirements for your teaching certificate, such as additional coursework, teaching hours, or retesting, and ensure you meet them within deadlines.

## General Notes