

WHAT EVERY MICHIGAN TEACHER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT NCLB

NCLB: The No Child Left Behind Act (2001), which is the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was signed into law by President Bush on January 8, 2002. NCLB requires all elementary, middle and secondary teachers (grades 6-12) to be highly qualified. Middle school (grades 6-12) in a departmentalized setting, and secondary teachers (grades 7-12) must be highly qualified in each of the core academic subjects to which they are assigned to teach.

CORE ACADEMIC SUBJECTS ARE: English, Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Foreign Languages, Civics and Government, Economics, Arts, History, and Geography. The arts in Michigan include visual arts, vocal and instrumental music, dance and theatre.

“HIGHLY QUALIFIED” MEANS: The teacher holds at least a bachelor’s degree and full state certification, has a major in the content/subject assigned to teach or if teaching in a minor has passed a rigorous state test in the content/subject, or holds a master’s or higher degree in the content/subject, or has completed the equivalent of a major in the content/subject (30 semester credit hours), or holds National Board Certification in appropriate content and at the appropriate developmental level, or meets a high objective uniform state-standard of evaluation (**HOUSE**).

HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS IN MICHIGAN: All elementary (grades K-5), middle and secondary teachers who have taken and passed the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) basic skills and subject area examinations are considered highly qualified. (See note below for further explanation).

All elementary teachers (grades K-5), even those who have not taken the MTTC, are considered highly qualified because the elementary preparation is the equivalent of an academic major.

All middle and secondary teachers who did not take the MTTC, but are assigned to teach in their academic major(s) are considered to be highly qualified for that content/subject.

NOTE: For purposes of NCLB science includes biology, chemistry, physical science, physics, earth/space science. Under NCLB the broad science endorsement is only considered highly qualified for teaching general science. Those assigned to teach the individual subjects within the science discipline must demonstrate that they are highly qualified in each subject assigned to teach. This is also true for the broad social science and social studies endorsement.

HOW TO DEMONSTRATE THAT YOU ARE HIGHLY QUALIFIED: You can demonstrate that you are highly qualified by one of the methods listed under “**Highly Qualified**” above. If you choose the **HOUSE** option, this information along with the other options is available on the MDE website in the State Board of Education approved document “Michigan’s Definition for Identifying Highly Qualified Teachers”. The website address is: www.mi.gov/mde. When you get to the MDE homepage, click on State Board of Education, then policies and search under April 2003. For a flow chart of NCLB and highly qualified teacher requirements, please see reverse side of this document. This is general information to be used for quick reference. More detailed information is available at the MDE website.

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FLOWCHART OF NCLB DEFINITION OF “HIGHLY QUALIFIED”
FOR TEACHERS WHO HOLD FULL STATE CERTIFICATION**

