

South Carolina Alternative Pathways to Licensure

Charleston County School District embraces professionals seeking alternative pathways to licensure through PACE and ABCTE. To gain more information about PACE and ABCTE, please follow this link:
<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/se/educator-services/alt-licensure/>.

PROGRAM OF ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION FOR EDUCATORS (PACE)

Teacher quality is vitally important to the success of South Carolina schools; we view the recruitment and hiring of teachers as a critical process in our efforts to improve the quality of our educational system. Since 1984, South Carolina has recruited teachers from the ranks of people who graduated with college degrees outside education and who have worked in other fields. While we appreciate how South Carolina's Program of Alternative Licensure for Educators (PACE) helps us keep our classrooms adequately staffed, we are also proud to note that our PACE teachers do particularly well in professional evaluations and bring a diversity of experience to the classroom that enriches education across the state.

PACE is a demanding, selective program. It's not for everyone, and only a limited number of applicants are accepted each year. This booklet will help you determine whether or not you qualify to participate in PACE, and show you how this intensive program prepares career-changers for teaching while they work with students as the classroom teacher of record.

Contact PACE @ 877.885.5280 (in-state toll free)
803.896.0325 (out-of-state and local callers)
Monday-Friday 1:00PM - 4:30PM (excluding state holidays)

AMERICAN BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF TEACHER EXCELLENCE (ABCTE)

The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) is a non-partisan non-profit organization established by the United States Department of Education. In June 2007 the South Carolina General Assembly passed the American Board for the Certification of Teacher Excellence Act, which allows state public school districts or charter schools to hire individuals who use the ABCTE process to obtain a South Carolina teaching license in one of the following secondary content areas: **biology, chemistry, English, mathematics, physics, or science**. Currently, South Carolina is one of ten states that accept ABCTE for initial licensure purposes. An applicant who has earned at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university and who qualifies for the Passport to Teaching certificate issued by ABCTE in the areas of biology, chemistry, English, mathematics, physics, or science may apply for a one-year alternate route license upon verification of an employment offer as a teacher in a South Carolina public school. This alternative route license may be renewed annually for two additional years upon verification of successful teaching. To advance to a standard South Carolina Professional license - a renewable license that is valid for a five-year period, the ABCTE candidate must complete the induction and summative/formal evaluation requirements of the state's system for Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Professional Teaching (ADEPT) and must pass the appropriate Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) examination offered through the Educational Testing Service.

Detailed information regarding the ABCTE process, including the required tests and fees, is available on the organization's Website at www.abcte.org.