

21.3 Teacher Certification Requirements	
Application: To All Department of Children's Services Employees	
Authority: TCA 37-5-105, 37-5-106; 4-3-2603; 4-3-2606; 49-5-101 through 49-5-109	Standards: None
Commissioner:	Date:
Original Effective Date: 11/01/98 Current Effective Date: 04/21/15	Supersedes: DCS 21.3 03/01/98 Last Review Date: 04/21/15
Glossary: None	

Policy Statement:

The Department of Children's Services School shall employ teachers who are appropriately licensed for the position code and subject area in which they are employed to teach. The Principal at the Youth Development Center is responsible for verifying appropriate licensure.

Purpose:

To ensure the principal and teachers in the juvenile justice facility are licensed according to the requirements outlined in the Department of Education's [Rules, Regulations and Minimum Standards for the Governance of Tennessee Public Schools](#) and DCS Policies and Procedures.

Procedures:

A. Valid teacher's license

A Youth Development Center school must not employ any person as a teacher unless they provide a current copy of his/her Tennessee Teacher's license that:

1. Is valid for the period of employment, and
2. Covers the endorsement area(s) of the subject(s) to be taught by him/her as indicated on up-to-date license.

B. Position code

Teachers assigned to teach a subject must:

1. Be in the position code that is paired to the teaching endorsement for that specific subject, and
2. Meet the Department of Education's licensure requirements for the course to be taught.

C. Restriction of teaching area

1. Compliance with Department of Education

The superintendent of the youth development center must ensure that his or her facility is in compliance with the Tennessee Department of Education [Rules, Regulations and Minimum Standards for the Governance of Tennessee Public Schools](#) regarding teaching areas.

2. Teaching areas

Teachers must teach only in their areas of endorsement, except where the Tennessee Department of Education and DCS have agreed otherwise.

3. Limited exception

A teacher may teach one course per day outside his/her endorsed area for no more than two class periods.

4. Moving teachers to other endorsement areas

If a reduction in staff or a change in curriculum causes teachers to be moved to other teaching positions by reason of seniority, the principal must move such teachers only into subject areas and position codes for which they are properly licensed.

5. Documentation and waiver for non-endorsed teacher

A teacher may be employed to teach in a subject area for which he or she is not endorsed only if:

- a) There is documentation that a properly certified teacher is unavailable, and
- b) A waiver has been secured from the Department of Education through the DCS Education Division.

D. Renewal of license

1. Responsibility for renewal

Each teacher employed by DCS must renew his or her license as required by the Department of Education regulations in order to maintain its validity.

2. Termination

Failure of a teacher to maintain appropriate licensure shall subject him or her to termination.

E. Evaluation

All DCS school personnel will be evaluated according to the guidelines stated in the [*Rules, Regulations, and Minimum Standards of the Governance of Tennessee Public Schools.*](#)

Forms:

None

Collateral Documents:

[*Rules, Regulations, and Minimum Standards for the Governance of Tennessee Public Schools*](#)