

Adjunct Teacher Act

Frequently Asked Questions | 2024

What is an adjunct teacher?

An adjunct teacher is a professional who holds a bachelor's degree and has demonstrated subject-matter expertise in a course offered by a school. Adjunct teachers are awarded temporary certificates that allow them to provide instruction without going through the lengthy process of receiving a traditional certification.

Why are adjunct teachers necessary?

Schools and districts can use adjunct teachers when traditionally certified teachers are unavailable. Adjunct teachers can also instruct elective subjects (music, art, or career and technical education) that might be better filled by professionals in those fields.

What is the benefit of having adjunct teachers?

Adjunct teachers help address teacher shortages and diversify course offerings by letting districts hire uncertified but otherwise qualified subject-matter experts.

Why are adjunct teachers limited to a short-term credential?

Adjunct teachers have the option to work toward licensure while in an adjunct teaching role. ExcelinEd's Adjunct Teacher Act [model policy](#) allows certificates issued to effective adjunct teachers to be renewed twice. After that, it is expected that teachers earn a state-issued teaching certification to continue teaching.

Who can qualify?

For core subjects like math, English, and science, an individual must have a bachelor's degree and pass a subject area test or hold an industry certificate. For elective subjects, an individual may also demonstrate mastery through professional experience.



Spotlight on Indiana

Indiana adopted [legislation](#) in 2022 that allows K-12 schools to hire adjunct teachers with at least four years of experience in the subject they want to teach.

Are adjunct teachers supervised?

Adjunct teachers can teach in a classroom by themselves. However, all adjunct teachers have a supervising teacher who regularly evaluates them and provides ongoing mentorship and coaching.

How are adjunct teachers evaluated?

Adjunct teachers are evaluated each year according to the district's state-approved evaluation system. Adjunct teachers are evaluated the same as other certified teachers and receive the same rights and protections as such.

Contact

Justine Taylor-Raymond

Senior Director, Teacher & School Policy

justine@excelined.org