

BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED STANDARD CERTIFICATE (ENDORSEMENT CODE: 2415)

TO AVOID DELAYS: After applying online, please submit **ALL** necessary documentation **together** in a **single packet** to the address below. If possible, please have transcripts sent to you first and then forward them in the sealed envelope(s) together with any other documents. Please include your tracking number in all correspondence with our office.

**NJ Department of Education
Office of Certification and Induction
PO Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500**

This endorsement entitles the holder to teach the Blind or Visually Impaired in all public schools.

Cumulative GPA Requirement

- New Jersey requires that candidates for certification achieve a cumulative **GPA of at least 3.0 when a GPA of 4.00** equals an A grade for students graduating on or after **September 1, 2016 (2.75 for those graduating before September 1, 2016)** in a baccalaureate degree program, higher degree program or a State-approved post-baccalaureate certification program with a minimum of 13 semester-hour credits.
- Please note that there are [GPA Flexibility Rules](#) where a high praxis score may offset a GPA that is lower than 3.0, but higher than 2.75.

Instructional Certification

- The Teacher of the Blind or Visually Impaired is not a standalone certificate. Candidates need to hold a CEAS or standard NJ instructional certificate with an endorsement appropriate to the subject or grade level to be taught. If you have not yet applied for instructional certification, please see the NJ DOE [website](#) for details and a listing of instructional endorsements.

Professional Teacher Preparation

- Current regulations for certification require that applicants complete a state-approved Special Education program for the Blind or Visually Impaired that culminates in clinical practice. When you apply, please attach the [Verification of Program Completion](#) form.

Teacher Performance Assessment

- Candidates seeking initial certification must pass a Commissioner-approved [performance-based assessment of teaching](#) if they graduated on or after September 1, 2017. The [Verification of Program Completion](#) form needs to be completed in its entirety by your college/university.

State Teaching Certificate

- Please submit a copy of an out-of-state teaching certificate that is equivalent to a NJ Standard Instructional Certificate. Holders of a NJ Standard Instructional Certificate do not need to send in a copy of their certificate.

Record of Professional Experience

- Please submit the [Record of Professional Experience form](#) which must be filled out by your employer:

The New Jersey Department of Education will make the final determination as to whether or not the experience meets NJ [reciprocity regulations](#).

Please Note: Holders of a NJ standard instructional certificate do not need to send in the above form with the exception of those who hold a standard *Teacher of the Handicapped* certificate.

Fee Requirement

- No checks or money orders will be accepted
- Please make the payment [online](#)
- Please notify your examiner after payment has been made.
- If your application expires after six months, you will be charged a fee of \$70.
- All fees, including money left on file, are nonrefundable

Online Certificate Information

- All information regarding applications and certifications is now available online, including certificate name, certificate ID number, date of issuance, and expiration date, if applicable. Instructions to view this information can be found [here](#).
- In order to make certification information available more quickly, this information will appear on our website in lieu of the issuance of paper certificates. If you would like to view the status of your application, then please visit our [application status check](#).

You cannot complete the entire application process online. After applying online, please submit ALL necessary documentation together IN A SINGLE PACKET to the NJ DOE in order to complete your application. Please put your tracking number on all documents that you send to our office.

**IF YOU HAVE MET THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS,
THEN [CLICK HERE](#) TO APPLY ONLINE.**