



EXPLAINER: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POINTS

Professional Development Point (“PDP”) means a unit used to renew teacher licenses earned through the completion of specific professionally aligned tasks and assignments. This replaces the 6 credits that were required for certification renewal. These definitions and requirements may be found in COMAR 13A.12.02 Educator Licensure – Teachers.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Initial Professional, Professional, and Advanced Professional license may be renewed for successive 5-year terms on the successful completion of the requisite number of professional development points (PDPs) as set forth in COMAR 13A.12.02.06 of this chapter based on an approved individual professional development plan that is designed to improve teaching and student learning, and, if required, by the educator’s supervisor.

NEW CHANGES

Educators applying to renew an Initial Professional, Professional, or Advanced Professional License shall complete a minimum of 90 PDPs that shall include:

1. Content or pedagogy related to an area on the educator’s license;
2. English as a Second Language, Sheltered English, or Bilingual Education;
3. Strategies for teaching students with disabilities, or differentiated instruction for students with diverse learning needs; and
4. Culturally Responsive Teaching or diverse student identities in education.

Note: You must obtain at least one hour in each category and a total of 90 PDP points to satisfy the PDP requirement.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POINT EXPLAINER

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	PDP EQUIVALENTS
A. Professional Development Point (PDP)	Department's measurement of professional development activities:	
	1 clock hour is equivalent to one PDP.	1 PDP
	1 semester hour is equivalent to 15 PDPs.	15 PDPs
	One Department-approved continuing professional development credit is equivalent to 15 PDPs.	15 PDPs
	One continuing education unit is equivalent to ten PDPs.	10 PDPs
B. Educators Applying for Renewal	Minimum of 90 PDPs required, including:	
	1 Content or pedagogy related to an area on the educator's license	
	2 English as a Second Language, Sheltered English, or Bilingual Education	
	3 Strategies for teaching students with disabilities, or differentiated instruction	
	4 Culturally Responsive Teaching or diverse student identities in education	
C. Additional Requirements for Specific Certification Areas	Additional PDP requirements for specific areas:	
Blind/Visually Impaired	Teachers in this area must present a minimum of 15 PDPs in braille maintenance.	15 PDPs
School Counselor	School Counselors must present 1 semester hour or an equivalent number of CEUs on specific topics.	Varies
Administrator	Administrators in certain positions must submit PDPs on specific topics.	Varies
D. Special Provision	Starting July 1, 2025, specific teachers must demonstrate proficiency in scientific reading:	
	Demonstration options include test scores, coursework, observation, or training.	Varies

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CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	PDP EQUIVALENTS
E. Ways to Earn PDPs	Various ways to accrue PDPs:	
	College credit earned or taught at an accredited institution.	Varies
	Continuing professional development (CPD) credits approved by the Department.	Varies
	Continuing education units (CEUs) from accredited providers.	Varies
	Professional conferences, workshops, or seminars exceeding 4 hours.	Varies
	Curriculum development contributing to school improvement.	Up to 30 PDPs
	Publication of books or articles in professional journals or for purchase.	Up to 75 PDPs
	Mentorship activities to help others improve their performance.	Varies
	Earning micro-credentials demonstrating specific skills or competencies.	Up to 10 PDPs
	Approved professional development activities of at least 1 contact hour.	Varies
Access the MSDE PDP form to help you track your points.		
F. National Board Certificate	Educators with National Board Certificates can use them for renewal.	Substitutes Regulation Present that certificate when subsequently renewing a Maryland Educator License as a substitute for §B of this regulation

Access MSEA's accompanying guide, Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) Explainer, for more information about this process.



MSEA PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PORTAL

At MSEA's Professional Learning Portal you'll find courses and trainings for your continued professional growth. Our PD is delivered by member and staff experts online and is designed to support early career to veteran educators feel confident and prepared on the job. Join us virtually or in person for career-boosting learning opportunities at mseaportal.org.



Check out [MSEA's Resource Library](#) for policy explainers, one-pagers, and toolkits on the Blueprint, educator licensure, community schools, racial, social, and economic justice, and more.

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