

Gifted Teacher Credentialing Requirements by State

A preliminary reference for teachers considering graduate coursework in gifted education.
Compiled from state department of education, licensing board, and administrative code sources.

Current as of July 2026. State requirements change frequently; verify with your state before making any decision.

Use this as a starting point for your own research, not a final answer. State rules change often and depend on your district and assignment, so always confirm current requirements with your state.

24 NO REQUIREMENT No state-level requirement to hold a gifted credential to teach gifted students. Some leave it to districts.	23 REQUIREMENT EXISTS A requirement exists that coursework may help satisfy. Most also require an exam, practicum, or approved program. Includes one unresolved state (Nebraska).	3 OUT-OF-STATE NOT ACCEPTED Credential must come from an in-state or state-approved program. Out-of-state coursework cannot satisfy it alone.
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How to read this document. "No requirement" means no state-level mandate that a teacher hold a gifted credential; in several of these states an optional endorsement exists but is not required to teach. "Requirement exists" means a credential or specific training is required for at least some gifted teaching assignments — and in most cases graduate coursework alone will not complete it, because a state exam (commonly Praxis 5358, at cut scores that vary by state), a practicum, or completion of a state-approved program is also required. Whether any particular coursework counts is determined by your state or district, not by TPAI.

The full landscape

● No requirement ▲ Requirement exists ■ Out-of-state not accepted □ Unresolved

STATE	STATUS	SUMMARY	OUT-OF-STATE COURSEWORK
Alabama	▲ Requirement exists	Endorsement (gifted = special ed); Alabama-approved program or reciprocity	No / conditional
Alaska	● No requirement	No requirement; former 6-credit rule repealed 2022	N/A
Arizona	▲ Requirement exists	Gifted PreK-12 Endorsement, 12 credits (6 provisional); NAGC/CEC in-service may substitute	Yes
Arkansas	■ Out-of-state coursework not accepted	Endorsement requires recommendation by an in-state university licensure officer; Praxis 5358	No
California	● No requirement	No requirement; GATE is locally controlled	N/A
Colorado	● No requirement	No blanket mandate; ID team needs one trained/endorsed member. Optional endorsement, 24-credit coursework path	Yes (for optional endorsement)
Connecticut	● No requirement	No requirement; any grade-appropriate certificate clears the gifted assignment	N/A
Delaware	▲ Requirement exists	Standard Certificate; 30 credits or 15-credit five-area path; Praxis 5358 (157)	Yes, with exam
Florida	▲ Requirement exists	Endorsement, 15 credits across five named areas; accepts regionally accredited credit	Yes
Georgia	■ Out-of-state coursework not accepted	In-Field Endorsement must come from a GaPSC-approved program	No
Hawaii	● No requirement	No requirement; no gifted endorsement exists	N/A
Idaho	● No requirement	No requirement; SDE states endorsement not required to teach	N/A
Illinois	● No requirement	No requirement; ISBE states endorsement not required to teach gifted	N/A
Indiana	● No requirement	No requirement; assignment code permits any license, endorsement recommended	N/A
Iowa	▲ Requirement exists	TAG endorsement for program coordinator, 12 credits + practicum	Yes
Kansas	▲ Requirement exists	Gifted special-ed endorsement; coursework + practicum + Praxis	Conditional
Kentucky	■ Out-of-state coursework not accepted	Statute requires an approved program at a Kentucky college or university; Praxis 5358 (152)	No
Louisiana	▲ Requirement exists	Academically Gifted add-on (gifted = exceptionality); ~18 credits + practicum	Unclear / conditional

Maine	▲ Requirement exists	Chapter 104 requires certified + GT-trained staff; Endorsement 690 available	Conditional
Maryland	▲ Requirement exists	COMAR requires assigned personnel to complete gifted-competency PD	Conditional
Massachusetts	● No requirement	No requirement; no gifted endorsement exists	N/A
Michigan	● No requirement	No requirement; no state gifted mandate or endorsement	N/A
Minnesota	● No requirement	No requirement; assignment table permits any grade-appropriate license	N/A
Mississippi	▲ Requirement exists	Supplemental endorsement; approved program, 18 credits, or module; Praxis 5358 (151); out-of-state via IPV	Yes, via IPV
Missouri	▲ Requirement exists	Certification required in districts over 350 ADA (~15 credits + practicum); 6 PD hrs/yr below	Conditional
Montana	● No requirement	No requirement; GT teacher is a staffing code, general license only	N/A
Nebraska	□ Unresolved	High Ability endorsement may be assignment-linked; current clearing-code status unconfirmed	Unclear
Nevada	▲ Requirement exists	Endorsement, 9 credits + 2 years experience	Yes
New Hampshire	● No requirement	No requirement; no state gifted mandate or endorsement	N/A
New Jersey	● No requirement	No requirement; any instructional certificate suffices	N/A
New Mexico	▲ Requirement exists	Endorsement (gifted = special ed); 12 credits + Praxis 5358	Yes, with exam
New York	▲ Requirement exists	Extension; 12 credits + 50-hour field experience + CST exam	Yes (individual evaluation)
North Carolina	● No requirement	No requirement; LEAs set personnel rules in local AIG plans; AIG add-on available	N/A
North Dakota	▲ Requirement exists	Endorsement must be completed within 3 years of assignment to gifted special ed (~17 credits)	Possibly, via approved program
Ohio	▲ Requirement exists	GIS license for specialists; general providers need 15 PD clock hrs/yr for 4 years	Varies
Oklahoma	● No requirement	No requirement; district PD mandate only, no coursework requirement	N/A
Oregon	● No requirement	No requirement; TAG is a non-required specialization, not an assignment endorsement	N/A
Pennsylvania	● No requirement	No requirement; any PA instructional certificate suffices, no unique GT certificate	N/A
Rhode Island	● No requirement	No requirement; RIDE does not require endorsements for school assignments	N/A
South Carolina	▲ Requirement exists	Endorsement, SCDE-approved 2-course/6-credit sequence; out-of-state via portal approval	Conditional
South Dakota	● No requirement	No requirement; former gifted rule repealed	N/A
Tennessee	▲ Requirement exists	Endorsement or shorter state-approved employment standard; Praxis for full endorsement	Conditional
Texas	▲ Requirement exists	30 hours foundational PD before assignment + 6 hrs/yr; no certificate; outside providers allowed	N/A (PD, not credential)
Utah	▲ Requirement exists	Endorsement required when teaching a class formally identified as gifted; 16 credits	Conditional
Vermont	● No requirement	No requirement; no gifted mandate or endorsement	N/A
Virginia	● No requirement	No requirement to hold endorsement; divisions provide competency-based PD; add-on optional	Yes (for optional endorsement)
Washington	● No requirement	No requirement; gifted specialty endorsement exists but not required for assignment	Unclear (specialty endorsement)
West Virginia	▲ Requirement exists	Gifted (1-12) endorsement (gifted = exceptionality); Praxis 5358 (157); out-of-state verification form	Yes, conditional
Wisconsin	● No requirement	No requirement; rule states GT teacher license not required to teach in a GT program	N/A
Wyoming	▲ Requirement exists	Endorsement required if a class or self-contained room is titled Gifted & Talented	Unclear

A starting point, not advice. This document is a general reference to help you begin your own research. It is not legal or licensure advice. State credentialing rules change often and depend on details specific to your situation, your role, and your assignment. Before enrolling for certification purposes, confirm current requirements directly with your state department of education or district licensure office. TPAI makes no guarantee that any course or credential will satisfy a particular state's requirements.

On method. Classifications rest on official state sources: department of education pages, licensing and standards board materials, administrative code, and statute. Commercial certification-guide websites were deliberately excluded, as several were found to state requirements that official sources contradict. Where a state offers an optional endorsement, its availability is noted but is not treated as a requirement. Nebraska is marked unresolved because its current assignment-clearing rules could not be confirmed from an official source; it is counted conservatively among states with a requirement. The Praxis 5358 cut score varies by state (for example, 151 in Arkansas and Mississippi, 152 in Kentucky, 157 in Colorado and West Virginia), so no single passing score applies nationally.