

**Excerpts from WAC 392-121  
Salary Placement for Certificated Staff**

**WAC 392-121-249 Definition - Accredited institution of higher education.** As used in this chapter, "accredited institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education that has been accredited by a national or regional accrediting association recognized by the Washington student achievement council and the secretary of the U.S. Department of Education pursuant to WAC 181-78A- 010(7).

**WAC 392-121-250 Definition - Highest degree level.** As used in this chapter, the term "highest degree level" means:

- (1) The highest degree earned by the employee from an accredited institution of higher education, pursuant to WAC 392-121-249; or
- (2) "Nondegreed" for a certificated instructional employee who:
  - (a) Holds no bachelor's or higher level degree; or
  - (b) Holds a bachelor's or higher level degree and a valid vocational/career and technical education certificate, but:
    - (i) The bachelor's or higher level degree was not a requirement of any past or present education certificate or permit, including the vocational/career and technical education certificate, pursuant to chapter 181-77 or 181-79A WAC; and
    - (ii) Whose highest placement pursuant to WAC 392-121-270 is as a nondegreed certificated instructional employee.

**WAC 392-121-255 Definition - Academic credits.** As used in this chapter, "academic credits" means credits determined as follows:

- (1) Credits are earned after the awarding or conferring of the employee's first bachelor's degree;
- (2) Credits are earned on or before October 1 of the year for which allocations are being calculated pursuant to this chapter;
- (3) Credits are earned from an accredited institution of higher education: Provided, that credits, determined eligible pursuant to subsections (1), (2), (4) and (6) of this section, earned from any other accredited community college, college, or university and reported on Form S-275 on or before December 31, 1992, shall continue to be reported;
- (4) Credits are transferrable or applicable to a bachelor's or more advanced degree program: Provided, that for educational courses which are the same or identical no more credits for that educational course than are transferrable or applicable to a bachelor's or more advanced degree program at that institution shall be counted;
- (5) Credits earned after September 1, 1995, must satisfy the additional requirements of WAC 392-121-262;
- (6) Credits are not counted as in-service credits pursuant to WAC 392-121-257 or nondegree credits pursuant to WAC 392-121-259;
- (7) The number of credits equals the number of quarter hours, units or semester hours each converted to quarter hours earned pursuant to this section; and
- (8) Accumulate credits rounded to one decimal place.

**WAC 392-121-257 Definition - In-service credits.** As used in this chapter, "in-service credits" means credits determined as follows:

- (1) Credits are earned:
  - (a) After August 31, 1987; and
  - (b) After the awarding or conferring of the employee's first bachelor's degree.
- (2) Credits are earned on or before October 1 of the year for which allocations are being calculated pursuant to this chapter.
- (3) Credits are earned in either:
  - (a) A locally approved in-service training program which means a program approved by a school district board of directors or charter school board, and meeting standards adopted by the professional

educator standards board pursuant to the standards in WAC 181-85-200 and the development of which has been participated in by an in-service training task force whose membership is the same as provided under RCW 28A.415.040; or

(b) A state approved continuing education program offered by an education agency approved to provide in-service for the purposes of continuing education as provided for under rules adopted by the professional educator standards board pursuant to chapter 181-85 WAC.

(4) Credits are not earned for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of the employee's next highest degree.

(5) Credits earned after September 1, 1995, must satisfy the additional requirements of WAC 392-121-262.

(6) Credits are not counted as academic credits pursuant to WAC 392-121-255 or nondegree credits pursuant to WAC 392-121-259.

(7) Ten locally approved in-service or state approved continuing education credit hours defined in WAC 181-85-030 equal one in-service credit.

(8) Each forty hours of participation in an approved internship with a business, industry, or government agency pursuant to chapter 181-83 WAC equals one in-service credit.

(a) No more than two in-service credits may be earned as a result of an internship during any calendar-year period.

(b) Each individual is limited to a maximum of fifteen in-service credits earned from internships.

(9) Accumulate credits rounded to one decimal place.

**WAC 392-121-259 Definition - Nondegree credits.** As used in this chapter, "nondegree credits" means credits recognized for nondegree certificated instructional employees as follows:

(1) Zero credits shall be recognized for persons holding a valid certificate other than a certificate included in subsection (2) or (3) of this section.

(2) Thirty credits shall be recognized for persons holding a valid continuing or standard school nurse certificate.

(3) Persons holding valid vocational/career and technical education certificates as provided for in chapter 181-77 WAC shall accumulate recognized credits as follows:

(a) One credit for each one hundred clock hours of occupational experience as defined in WAC 181-77-003(7), subject to the following conditions and limitations:

(i) Clock hours of occupational experience used in determining nondegree credits must be earned after meeting the minimum vocational/career and technical education certification requirements of three years (six thousand hours) as established in WAC 181-77-041 (1)(a)(i), regardless of when the initial certificate is issued and regardless of type of vocational/career and technical education certificate held.

(ii) Nondegree credits based on occupational experience shall be limited to a maximum of twenty credits per calendar year.

(iii) Nondegree credits based on occupational experience shall exclude experience determined pursuant to WAC 392-121-264 (1)(a) through (d).

(b) One credit for each ten clock hours of vocational/career and technical education educator training meeting the requirements of WAC 181-77-003 (2), (9), or (12). Clock hours of vocational/career and technical education educator training used in determining nondegree credits must be earned after meeting the minimum vocational/career and technical education certification requirements as established in WAC 181-77-041 (1)(b) and (c), regardless of when the initial certificate is issued and regardless of type of vocational/career and technical education certificate held.

(4) Credits earned after September 1, 1995, must satisfy the additional requirements of WAC 392-121-262.

(5) Accumulate credits rounded to one decimal place.

**WAC 392-121-261 Definition - Total eligible credits.** As used in this chapter, "total eligible credits" means the total number of credits determined as follows:

(1) For an employee whose highest degree is a bachelor's degree, sum:

(a) Academic and in-service credits; and

(b) Nondegree credits, determined pursuant to WAC 392-121-259 and reported on Report S-275 prior to the awarding of the bachelor's degree for vocational/career and technical education instructors who

obtain a bachelor's degree while employed in the state of Washington as a nondegreed vocational/career and technical education instructor.

(2) For an employee whose highest degree is a master's degree, sum:

(a) Academic and in-service credits in excess of forty-five earned after the awarding or conferring of the bachelor's degree and prior to the awarding or conferring of the master's degree; and

(b) Academic and in-service credits earned after the awarding or conferring of the master's degree.

(3) For a nondegreed employee sum only nondegree credits.

**WAC 392-121-262 Definition - Additional criteria for all credits.** Credits earned after September 1, 1995, must satisfy the following criteria in addition to those found in WAC 392-121-255, 392-121-257, and 392-121-259:

(1) At the time credits are recognized by the school district or charter school, the content of the course must meet at least one of the following:

(a) It is consistent with a school-based plan for mastery of student learning goals as referenced in RCW 28A.655.110, the annual school performance report, for the school in which the individual is assigned;

(b) It pertains to the individual's current assignment or expected assignment for the following school year;

(c) It is necessary for obtaining endorsement as prescribed by the Washington professional educator standards board;

(d) It is specifically required for obtaining advanced levels of certification;

(e) It is included in a college or university degree program that pertains to the individual's current assignment or potential future assignment as a certificated instructional staff;

(f) It addresses research-based assessment and instructional strategies for students with dyslexia, dysgraphia, and language disabilities when addressing learning goal one under RCW 28A.150.210, as applicable and appropriate for individual certificated instructional staff; or

(g) Beginning in the 2011-12 school year, it pertains to the revised teacher evaluation system under RCW 28A.405.100, including the professional development training provided in RCW 28A.405.106.

(2) Credits which have been determined to meet one or more of the criteria in subsection (1) of this section shall continue to be recognized in subsequent school years and by subsequent school district and charter school employers; and

(3) Credits not recognized in a school year may be recognized in a subsequent school year if there is a change in the qualifying criteria such as a change in professional educator standards board rules, a change in the district's or charter school's strategic plan, a change in the school-based plan for the school in which the individual is assigned, a change in the individual's assignment, or a change in the individual's employer.

**WAC 392-121-264 Definition - Certificated years of experience.** Regardless of the experience factors used by a school district or charter school for the purposes of its salary schedule(s), as used in this chapter, the term "certificated years of experience" means the number of years of accumulated full-time and part-time professional education employment prior to the current reporting school year in the state of Washington, out-of-state, and a foreign country. School districts and charter schools shall report all certificated years of experience including those beyond the experience limit of the school district's or charter school's salary schedule.

(1) Professional education employment shall be limited to the following:

(a) Employment in public or private preschools or elementary and secondary schools in positions which require certification where:

(i) Schools include the Centrum education program, the Pacific Science Center education program, educational centers authorized under chapter 28A.205 RCW, and Seattle Children's Hospital education program;

(ii) Certification means the concurrent public professional education licensing requirements established in the state, province, country, or other governmental unit in which employment occurred and which, for the state of Washington, refers to the certificates authorized by WAC 181-79A-140 and temporary permits authorized by WAC 181-79A-128;

(b) Employment in public or private vocational-technical schools, technical colleges, community/junior colleges, colleges, and universities in positions comparable to those which require certification in Washington school districts;

(c) Employment in a governmental educational agency with regional administrative responsibilities for preschool, elementary, and/or secondary education including but not limited to an educational service district, office of superintendent of public instruction, or United States department of education in any professional position including but not limited to C.P.A., architect, business manager, or physician;

(d) Experience in the following areas:

(i) Military, Peace Corps, or Vista service which interrupted professional education employment included in (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection; and

(ii) Sabbatical leave.

(e) For nondegreed vocational/career and technical education instructors, up to a maximum of six years of management experience as defined in WAC 181-77-003(6) acquired after the instructor meets the minimum vocational/career and technical education certification requirements of three years (six thousand hours) established in WAC 181-77-041 (1)(a)(i), regardless of when the initial certificate is issued and regardless of type of vocational/career and technical education certificate held. If a degree is obtained while employed in the state of Washington as a nondegreed vocational/career and technical education instructor, the eligible years of management experience pursuant to this subsection reported on Report S-275 prior to the awarding of the degree shall continue to be reported but shall not increase.

(f) Beginning in the 2007-08 school year, for occupational therapists, physical therapists, nurses, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, counselors, psychologists, and social workers regulated under Title 18 RCW, years of experience may include employment as occupational therapists, physical therapists, nurses, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, counselors, psychologists, and social workers, that does not otherwise meet the requirements of (a) through (e) of this subsection, subject to the following conditions and limitations:

(i) Experience included under this subsection shall be limited to a maximum of two years.

(ii) The calculation of years of experience shall be that one year of experience in a school or other nonschool position counts as one year of experience for the purposes of this subsection, per subsection (2)(a) of this section.

(iii) Employment as occupational therapists shall be limited to the following:

(A) In positions requiring licensure as an occupational therapist under Title 18 RCW, or comparable out-of-state employment; and

(B) While holding a valid occupational therapist license, or other comparable occupational therapist credential.

(iv) Employment as physical therapists shall be limited to the following:

(A) In positions requiring licensure as a physical therapist under Title 18 RCW, or comparable out-of-state employment; and

(B) While holding a valid physical therapist license, or other comparable physical therapist credential.

(v) Employment as nurses shall be limited to the following:

(A) In positions requiring licensure as a registered nurse under Title 18 RCW, or comparable out-of-state employment; and

(B) While holding a valid registered nurse license, or other comparable registered nurse credential.

(vi) Employment as speech-language pathologists or audiologists shall be limited to the following:

(A) In positions requiring the same or similar duties and responsibilities as are performed by speech-language pathologists or audiologists regulated under Title 18 RCW; and

(B) After completion of the minimum requirements for conditional certification as a school speech-language pathologist or audiologist established in WAC 181-79A-231 (1)(c)(iv).

(vii) Employment as counselors shall be limited to the following:

(A) In positions requiring the same or similar duties and responsibilities as are performed by counselors regulated under Title 18 RCW; and

(B) After completion of the minimum requirements for emergency certification as a school counselor established in WAC 181-79A-231(3).

(viii) Employment as psychologists shall be limited to the following:

(A) In positions requiring the same or similar duties and responsibilities as are performed by psychologists regulated under Title 18 RCW; and

(B) After completion of the minimum requirements for emergency certification as a school psychologist established in WAC 181-79A-231(3).

(ix) Employment as social workers shall be limited to the following:

(A) In positions requiring the same or similar duties and responsibilities as are performed by social workers regulated under Title 18 RCW; and

(B) After completion of the minimum requirements for emergency certification as a school social worker established in WAC 181-79A-231 (3).

(x) Certificated years of experience as occupational therapists, physical therapists, nurses, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, counselors, psychologists, and social workers, determined pursuant to this subsection and reported on Report S-275, by teachers and other certificated staff who are no longer employed as occupational therapists, physical therapists, nurses, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, counselors, psychologists, and social workers, shall continue to be reported but shall not increase.

(2) Years of full-time and part-time professional education employment prior to the current reporting school year are accumulated as follows:

(a) For each professional education employment which is not employment as a casual substitute pursuant to subsection (1)(a) of this section;

(i) Determine the total number of hours, or other unit of measure, per year for an employee working full-time with each employer;

(ii) Determine the number of hours, or other unit of measure, per year with each employer, including paid leave and excluding unpaid leave;

(iii) Calculate the quotient of the hours, or other unit of measure, determined in (a)(ii) of this subsection divided by the hours, or other unit of measure, in (a)(i) of this subsection rounded to two decimal places for each year.

(b) For professional education employment as a casual substitute pursuant to subsection (1)(a) of this section:

(i) Determine the total number of full-time equivalent substitute days per year;

(ii) Calculate the quotient of full-time equivalent days determined in (b)(i) of this subsection divided by 180 rounded to two decimal places for each year.

(c) No more than 1.0 year may be accumulated in any traditional nine-month academic year or any twelve-month period.

(i) Accumulate, for each year, professional education employment calculated in (a)(iii) and (b)(ii) of this subsection.

(ii) Determine the smaller of the result in (c)(i) of this subsection or 1.00 for each year.

(d) Determine certificated years of experience as the accumulation of all years of professional education employment calculated in (c)(ii) of this subsection and report such years rounded to one decimal place.

**WAC 392-121-266 Definition - LEAP salary allocation documents.** As used in this chapter, "LEAP salary allocation documents" means the computerized tabulations prepared by the legislative evaluation and accountability program (LEAP) and identified in the state Operating Appropriations Act as part of the formula for determining average salaries for the purpose of allocating state moneys to school districts or charter schools.

**WAC 392-121-270 Placement of certificated instructional employees on LEAP salary allocation documents.** Each certificated instructional employee shall be placed on LEAP salary allocation documents with the highest placement based on the employee's highest degree level, total eligible credits, and certificated years of experience each defined in this chapter: Provided, That

(1) If an employee holds more than one degree of the same level, additional credits shall be counted after the first degree.

(2) An employee whose highest degree is a bachelor's degree, whose total eligible credits are ninety or greater, and whose total eligible credits earned prior to January 1, 1992, were less than one hundred thirty-five shall be placed on the BA+ 90 column.

(3) An employee whose highest degree level is nondegreed shall be placed on the BA columns except that such persons holding valid vocational/career and technical education certificates with one hundred thirty-five or more eligible credits shall be placed on the MA + 0 column.

(4) A vocational/career and technical education instructor who obtains a bachelor's degree while employed in the state of Washington as a nondegreed vocational/career and technical education instructor and for whom one hundred thirty-five or more eligible credits determined pursuant to WAC 392-121-259

were reported on Report S-275 prior to the awarding of that bachelor's degree shall continue to be placed on the MA+ 0 column and shall not advance to any other column unless a master's degree is obtained.

(5) For placement on LEAP salary allocation documents, total eligible credits and certificated years of experience shall be rounded to the nearest whole number. One-half credit or year shall be rounded to the next highest credit or year.

**WAC 392-121-280 Placement on LEAP salary allocation documents - Documentation required.** School districts and charter schools shall have documentation on file and available for review which substantiates each certificated instructional employee's placement on LEAP salary allocation documents. The minimum requirements are as follows:

(1) Districts and charter schools shall document the date of awarding or conferring of the highest degree including the date upon which the degree was awarded or conferred as recorded on the diploma or transcript from the registrar of the accredited institution of higher education.

(a) If the highest degree is a master's degree, the district or charter school shall also document the date of awarding or conferring of the first bachelor's degree.

(b) If the degree was awarded by an institution which does not confer degrees after each term, and all degree requirements were completed at a time other than the date recorded on the diploma or transcript, a written statement from the registrar of the institution verifying a prior completion date shall be adequate documentation.

(c) If the degree program was completed in a country other than the United States, documentation must include documentation in English of degree equivalency for the appropriate degree as allowed by WAC 181-79A-260: Provided, That documentation of degree equivalency is not required if that institution of higher education is already accredited pursuant to WAC 181-78A-010(7).

(2) Districts and charter schools shall document academic credits by having on file a transcript from the registrar of the accredited institution of higher education granting the credits. For purposes of this subsection:

(a) An academic credit is deemed "earned" at the end of the term for which it appears on the transcript: Provided, That a written statement from the registrar of the institution verifying a prior earned date may establish the date a credit was earned;

(b) Washington state community college credits numbered one hundred and above are deemed transferable for purposes of WAC 392-121-255(4) subject to the limitations of that same subsection;

(c) Credits are not deemed "earned" at an institution of higher education which transfers-in credits. Such credits must be documented using a transcript from the initial granting institution and are subject to all the limitations of WAC 392-121-255;

(d) If the credits were completed in a country other than the United States, documentation must include a written statement of credit equivalency for the appropriate credits from a foreign credentials' evaluation agency approved by the office of superintendent of public instruction: Provided, That documentation of degree equivalency is not required if that institution of higher education is already accredited pursuant to WAC 181-78A-010(7); and

(e) For credits earned after September 1, 1995, districts and charter schools shall document that the course content meets one or more of the criteria of WAC 392-121-262(1). At a minimum, such documentation must include a dated signature of the immediate principal, supervisor, or other authorized school district or charter school representative and must be available to the employee's future employers.

(3) Districts and charter schools shall document in-service credits:

(a) By having on file a document meeting standards established in WAC 181-85-107; and

(b) For credits earned after September 1, 1995, districts and charter schools shall document that the course content meets one or more of the criteria of WAC 392-121-262(1). At a minimum, such documentation must include a dated signature of the immediate principal, supervisor, or other authorized school district or charter school representative and must be available to the employee's future employers.

(4) Districts and charter schools shall document nondegree credits.

(a) For vocational/career and technical education educator training credits pursuant to WAC 392-121-259(3) districts and charter schools shall have on file a document meeting standards established in WAC 181-85-107 and evidence that the training was authorized pursuant to WAC 181-77-003 (2), (9), or (12).

(b) For credits calculated from converted occupational experience pursuant to WAC 392-121-259(3) districts and charter schools shall have on file documents which provide:

- (i) Evidence that the occupational experience meets the requirements of WAC 181-77-003(7);
  - (ii) Evidence of the individual's actual number of hours of employment for each year including dates of employment; and
  - (iii) The district or charter school calculation of converted credits pursuant to WAC 392-121-259(3).
- (c) For credits earned after September 1, 1995, districts shall document that the course content meets one or more of the criteria of WAC 392-121-262(1). At a minimum, such documentation must include a dated signature of the immediate principal, supervisor, or other authorized school district representative and must be available to the employee's future employers.
- (5) Districts and charter schools shall document certificated years of experience as follows:
- (a) For certificated years of experience obtained and reported on Report S-275 prior to the 1994-95 school year districts and charter schools shall have on file documents that provide evidence of employment including dates of employment.
  - (b) For certificated years of experience reported on Report S-275 for the first time after the 1993-94 school year districts and charter schools shall have on file:
    - (i) The total number of hours, or other unit of measure, per year for an employee working full-time with each employer;
    - (ii) The number of hours, or other unit of measure (worked by the employee), per year and dates of employment with each employer, including paid leave and excluding unpaid leave: Provided, That documentation of hours in excess of one full-time certificated year of experience in any twelve-month period is not required;
    - (iii) The quotient of the hours, or other unit of measure, determined in (b)(ii) of this subsection divided by the hours, or other unit of measure, in (b)(i) of this subsection rounded to two decimal places for each year;
    - (iv) The name and address of the employer;
    - (v) For those counting experience outside of the school district or charter school pursuant to WAC 392-121-264 (1)(a), evidence whether or not the position required professional education certification pursuant to WAC 392-121-264 (1)(a)(ii);
    - (vi) For those counting experience pursuant to WAC 392-121-264 (1)(b), a brief description of the previous employment which documents the school district's or charter school's decision that the position was comparable to one requiring certification in the Washington school districts;
    - (vii) For those counting management experience pursuant to WAC 392-121-264 (1)(e), evidence that the experience meets the requirements of WAC 181-77-003(6);
    - (viii) For those counting experience (for educational staff associates) pursuant to WAC 392-121-264 (1)(f), evidence that the previous employment meets the requirements in the applicable subsections of WAC 392-121-264 (1)(f).
- (6) Any documentation required by this section may be original or copies of the original: Provided, That each copy is subject to school district or charter school acceptance or rejection.
- (7) The falsification or deliberate misrepresentation, including omission of a material fact concerning degrees, credits, or experience by an education practitioner as defined in WAC 181-87-035 shall be deemed an act of unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC 181-87-050. In such an event the provisions of chapters 181-86 and 181-87 WAC shall apply.