



## 2019-20 Program Frequently Asked Questions

### Does this teacher qualify for BEST?

## Beginning Educators Support Team (BEST) Program

**We have a teacher who taught 5 years abroad. Does she count as new?**

**First-year teacher:** A teacher with 179 days or fewer in a continuous, certificated teaching assignment in public or private schools **anywhere in the United States.**

Yes, if this is her first US teaching position for a full-year, she counts as first-year.

**This teacher is in his first public school job after teaching in private schools for four years. Does he count as new?**

**First-year teacher:** A teacher with 179 days or fewer in a continuous, certificated teaching assignment in public **or private schools** anywhere in the United States.

No. Private school experience in a continuous assignment counts as teaching experience and excludes the teacher from first-year teacher counts.

**We have a teacher who has had a conditional certificate for three years. She's been CTE the whole time. Can we count her as new?**

**First-year teacher:** A teacher with **179 days or fewer in a continuous, certificated** teaching assignment in public or private schools anywhere in the United States.

No. Teaching for 3 years in a continuous assignment counts as teaching experience, regardless of the type of certificate the teacher holds and excludes the teacher from first-year teacher counts.

**We have 2 teachers with emergency certificates. This is their first teaching assignments. Are they new?**

**First-year teacher:** A teacher with **179 days or fewer in a continuous, certificated** teaching assignment in public or private schools anywhere in the United States.

Yes. Regardless of the type of certificate the teacher holds, this is their first teaching assignment. They should be included in first-year teacher counts.

**We hired a teacher who is returning to the classroom after being out for 15 years. This is her first teaching assignments in that time and things have really changed. Can we count her as new?**

**First-year teacher:** A teacher with **179 days or fewer in a continuous, certificated** teaching assignment in public or private schools anywhere in the United States.

No. Even though the experience is 15 years ago, she still has more than 179 days in a continuous, certificated teaching assignment.

**We hired a new kindergarten teacher who taught preschool for several years before earning her teaching certificate. Does she count as first-year?**

**First-year teacher:** A teacher with **179 days or fewer in a continuous, certificated** teaching assignment in public or private schools anywhere in the United States.

Maybe. If her previous position required some type of teaching certificate, then she is not counted as first-year. If it did not require a teaching certificate, then this is her first certificated position and she counts as first-year.

**Our new teacher has taught parts of the year for the past 5 years. Should we count her as first- or second-year?**

**First-year teacher:** A teacher with **179 days or fewer in a continuous, certificated** teaching assignment in public or private schools anywhere in the United States.

It depends. Will you treat her as a first-year teacher, providing her the support of a first-year teacher? If so, she's a first-year teacher. Has she held a single position for a full school year? If so, she's a second-year teacher.